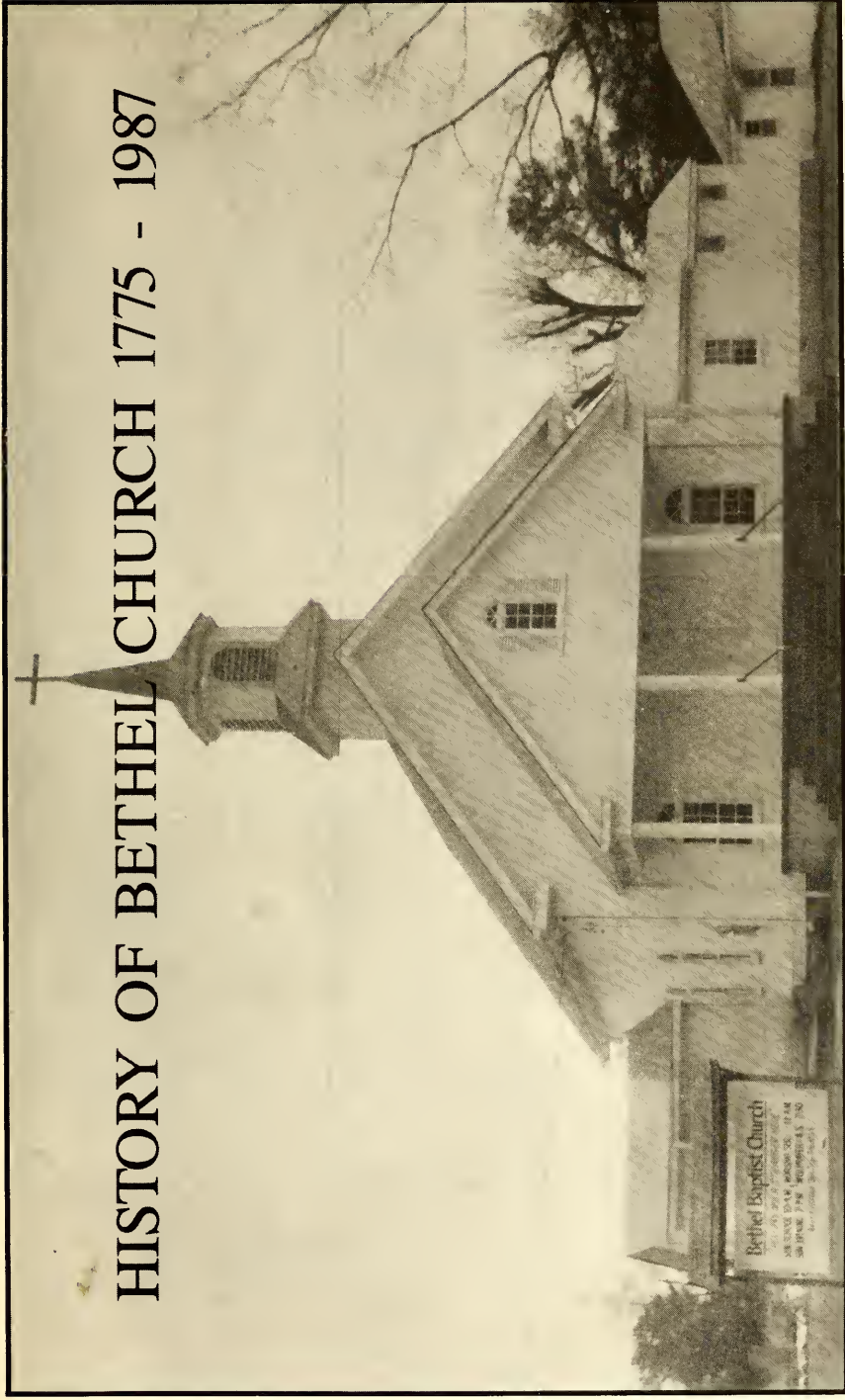


HISTORY OF BETHEL CHURCH 1775 - 1987



Ellerbe, North Carolina

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A HISTORY OF BETHEL METHODIST

AND

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ellerbe, North Carolina

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

OF

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

August 16, 1987

Compiled by Rev. Clinton Bailey

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED
TO
AND IN MEMORY
OF
TIMOTHY JAMES MESSER



1969 - 1987

Timmy was very special to everybody who knew him. His great personality and kindness let him live his life to the fullest. He was never boring to be around, he always had something to talk about. We know Timmy loved his friends just as much as they loved him.

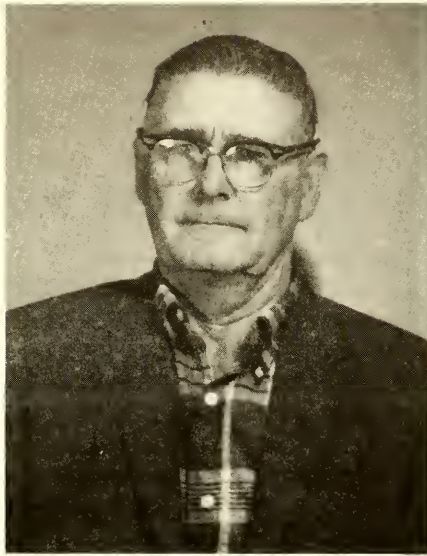
We all loved him and will never forget him. We know we will see him again someday.

MEMBERS OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

By: Cindy Carroll
Marsha Carroll
Gwen Stutts

IN MEMORY OF

WALTER HUDSON



1922 - 1985

DEACON

25 Years

TREASURER

23 YEARS

Walter Hudson, son, brother, husband, father, grand-father, neighbor: most of all a Christian dedicated to God and His church.

Smiling, hardworking, providing a comfortable life for Opal and their daughters; making his love felt to all around him; sharing God's blessings..The big apples on his birthday.

At the hospital he patiently waited for the Lord's comforting arms to ease his crossing...to be united with God whom he served all his life.

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HISTORY OF BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

Bethel is one of the oldest Methodist Churches not only in Richmond County but in the whole United States. It came into being as a result of a missionary journey through this section by Bishop Francis Asbury working in connection with a new church group formed by John Wesley in the early 1870's.

The first Bethel Church was organized in 1775 when George III was King of England. The deed to the original property was written in 1795 while George Washington was still serving as President of the United States. A hallowed shrine indeed! (1)

For many years the area around the Pee Dee River was the home of many Indian tribes. Here they found fertile soil for planting as well as fish and other game for food. Near Town Creek a strong settlement thrived. Close by a village sprang up specifically for religious purposes. Sometimes in the early 1930's excavations were made and the site plotted. A State Park now attracts many visitors to the Town Creek Indian Mound.

Naturally the same things which caused the Indians to be attracted to the area also brought the white man seeking pelts, trade and adventure. The Pee Dee River became a main throughfare for the exploration of this new land. Just exactly when the first permanent white settlers came into Anson County is not known.(2) A Scotsman by the name of John Clark took up land near Bear Island in 1740 and was followed by Solomon Hews (Hughes) in 1741. Solomon Creek was probably named for him. Three other Creek Takers had arrived by 1745, namely John Clark, Edmond Cartledge and Thomas Jones (3). By 1750 the trickle was becoming a stream.

About ten miles north of the present city of Rockingham there was a place where the river could easily be forded. Here the rolling hills of the Grassy Island section, the first settlement in Anson County was located. The settlement, called Mount Pleasant contained a courthouse made of logs where Judge Samuel Spencer and Judge Samuel Ashe held court. In the early 1850's there was also a Jackson Methodist Meeting House or church erected.

As the little settlement grew, another one began to develop by 1773 on the opposite side of the river in what is now Richmond County. About this time the people decided a church was needed here also and Bethel Methodist Meeting House came into being. The church was called "Bethel" after the hill on which it stood. (4) James Pickett donated the land to the church in 1795. At that time the river road went around Bethel Hill.

In 1779 Richmond County was created from Anson County with the river becoming the dividing line. Grassy Island was developing into a farm and trade

center. The land was fertile and yielded good crops. People gathered on the Island waterway to exchange their products with those from other places. Dances, picnics and dinners became a part of the people's social life. (5)

In November 1798 Bishop Francis Asbury preached at Bethel, coming south from Gilford County through Montgomery where he lodged with his old friends the Bell's and D. West on his way to Rev. Henry Ledbetters. His diary gives the following account: "We rode down 12 miles to D. West's and were benighted, which ill suited me. As we had to travel an unknown road to Henry Ledbetter's, I wished to stop at Hancock but the people thought otherwise, so I stopped and Brother Lee preached: after which I gave a discourse on Acts 2:39 and came off in haste. W. West escorted me down to the ferry where we called in vain for a flat. W. West went over and it was with great difficulty that he persuaded the ferryman to come over with the boat and take me. It being dark and the wind blowing very strong and cold, we had hard work crossing. I told the company so in the morning, but stay I must and preach or be counted proud. At Henry Ledbetter's I preached on Hebrews 10:23-24 and at John Randle's on 2nd Corinthians 6:1. Brother Jackson had secured for me riding and preaching enough as far as Camden.

Thursday, November 22, 1798.

We re-crossed Pee Dee River at C's (Colmans) Ferry and made it about 18 miles to Mask's where I preached on Hebrews 6:11. On Friday at Bethel on 2nd Corinthians 6:11. Saturday and Sunday at Jesse's (A colored man) Meeting House near Webb's Ferry." (6)

The Methodist continued to use this meeting house for a good many years. In 1845 the old building was abandoned and a new one was erected higher on the hill in the present location. There is no marker to indicate the place where Bethel Meeting House once stood. (7)

Eben Ingram gave the land and some lumber for the new church. The material used was first grade longleaf. The floor planks were from 8 to 16 inches wide. The inside walls were beautifully grained, hand-planed planks while the rafters were hand-hewn

logs...pegged together. The carpentry work was largely that of Edwin Ingram (Father of Eben Ingram) assisted by Edward Hicks and Jackson Meacham. (7)

Edwin Ingram is credited with making the first of the famous "fishing machines" used around Grassy Islands. (8) For the necessary twine used in its construction these pioneers grew cotton, picked the seed out by hand and had their women folk card and spin the fibre into the desired size for this heavy use.

Eben N. Ingram (1841-1926) served in Company "A" 4th Calvary of the Confederate States of America.

Jackson Meacham (1832-1904) was a carpenter's helper in the erection of the present building. He and his wife, Harriet Hicks (1836-1872) had 3 children: Will, J.F. and Minnie who married Matthew Linker. His 2nd wife had 4 children: Ben, Richmond, Robert and May who married Ed Smith. The Smiths' had a son, Ed Jr. who became a Methodist preacher. Jess and his son "Butch" own the land surrounding the church property.

The following are some of the older Bethel Methodist Church families:

REYNOLDS: David Henry and Ellen Cagle (1894-1946), Henlen D.. Many of this family attended Possom Tail Methodist and later moved to Bethel..Manley Reynolds and his son Nathan changed from Methodist to Baptist. Nathan's son "Shine" was one of the charter members of Bethel Baptist.

SHEPPARDS: John and Ann Eliza (1845-1919) Joel H. (1894-1939; "Uncle" John Thomas (1878-1936) had a son, Dewey who organized Sandy Ridge Baptist Church.

BENTONS: Eben N. Ingrams sister operated the local post office for the River Hills. The old building still stands on the Jess Mecham property.

BALDWINS: Ervin (1850-1909)

USSERY: Bob owned the grist mill on Mountain Creek.

GOODWINS: William J. & Sophronia H. (1857-1943)
Charles Franklin (1890-1945)

MCDUFFIE:: Frank and Alex (Brothers); Mary Elizabeth

MEEKS: Tom farmed a tract for the Ingrams, his son, Dewitt married Ben Ingram's daughter, Blanche.

GAYS: Henry and Harriet (1812-1867) J. A. (1821-1881) J.C. (1818-1902)

Other family names appearing in the early history included: McCrays, Burris, Spivey, Aldrich, Webbs, Gillis, Green, Hines and Morse.

In 1878 the church was rebuilt. Then about 1895 the building was ceiled overhead. Finger marks made by the workmen when they nailed the planks were still visible 32 years later. (9)

From 1895 until 1910 Bethel Church was used as a part-time school house. The first teacher was Almond Baldwin. (10)

Grassy Island and the River Hills settlement maintained its own for a long time. The old Mt. Pleasant settlement moved out and became the town of Wadesboro. Some of the people began to move into Rockingham and other nearby communities. A lot of the older landowners began to pass away and new people moved in. Soon times began to get better and a mass exodus to the factory and towns left many of the old home places standing empty.

About 1915 church attendance at Bethel Methodist began to fall off until by 1925 enrollment had dropped to 13 members. Those remaining moved their membership to Mt. Gilead and Mt. Pleasant Methodist church located closer to the town of Ellerbe and the doors of Bethel Methodist Church closed for the last time. (11) The building and property consisting of one and one-half acre of land and a large cemetery were deeded by Eben Ingram and his wife Zula, to the Trustees of the Ellerbe Charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Said instrument is dated June 8, 1925. T. A. Shaw, M. E. Key, and T. G. Rhyne accepted the property.

- Footnotes: 1. POST DISPATCH, August 22, 1951
2 & 3. History of Anson County
4. RIVER HILLS By Elva Smith Reynolds
5. History of Anson County
6. Diary of Bishop Francis Asbury
7,8,9. POST DISPATCH, August 26, 1937
10. History of Bethel Baptist - J.D. White
11. History of Mt. Pleasant Church - Edwin L. Key

From 1827 to 1844 Mt. Pleasant belonged to the Montgomery Circuit. This circuit probably included the Bethel Methodist as well. Those serving the circuit during this period were:

1827 D. Low and William Jackson
1829 J. M. Kelly and G. W. Davis
1831 Penn Bell and Allen McCorqudale
1833 A. Brown and B. Thompson
1835 David Derrick and M. Russell
1837 W. Holiday and M. Russell
1839 B. I. Boseman and W. McSwain
1841 C. Smith and Nathan Bird
1843 J. M. Bradley and J. Parker

1828 Z. McPherson and G. W. Daniels
1830 A. McPherson and William Richardson
1832 J. Covington and S. Bosman
1834 M. C. McTurrantine & S. Laney
1836 David Derrick and T. Daniels
1838 T. L. Young and A. Huckman
1840 W. Kerr and A. Huckaby
1842 J. H. Chandler and S. W. Davis

During 1844, Bethel along with Mt. Pleasant, Concord, Hebron and Philadelphia were changed to the Rockingham Circuit. Both of these circuits were then in the South Carolina Conference which extended from Mt. Gilead, N. C. to Georgetown, S. C. The preachers serving during this time were:

1844 Lock O'Neal
1846 Henry M. Durant
1848 Dennis J. Simmons
1850 John A. Porter
1852-54 S. D. Adams
1857 Peter Daub & T. L. Triplett
1859-60 Ira T. Wyche
1863-64 H. H. Gibbons
1867-68, 1872-74, 1878 Joseph Wheeler

1845 Michael Robbins & Robert J. Limehouse
1847 Marcus A. McKibbin
1849 James W. Whightman
1851 E. E. Freeman
1855-56 Lemon Shell
1858 Peter Daub & George W. Hepcast
1861-62 James Tillett
1865-66 S. D. Adams
1869-71 T. W. Guthrie

1879-80 P. Greening
 1881 S. C. Pharr
 1883-84 W. S. Hales
 1889 D. A. Futrell
 1893 A. D. Betts
 1898-99 T. S. Ethridge
 1902-14 Unknown
 1916 M. E. Cotton
 1919-23 N. B. Johnson

1876-77 J. R. Jenkins
 1882 S. C. Chaffin
 1885-88 F. L. Townsend
 1890-92 H. G. Stamey
 1894-97 J. M. Lowder
 1900-01 N. H. Guyton
 1915 B. F. Watson
 1917-18 G. H. Biggs
 1924-25 W. F. Traywick

Meacham Grady: baptized in 1918. Parents: Ben and Minnie (Reynolds) lived across the road from the Cemetery on the right hand side. Children at that time were Grady and Arthur.

Richmond and Willa (Cagle) Meacham lived nearby. Children farmed together. These two operated the old steam operated Cotton gin owned by E. N. Ingram.

HISTORY OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1927 David Hudson along with several others presented a request to the Quarterly Conference of the Methodist Church to use the abandoned building of the old Bethel Church for Sunday School and preaching. The request being granted efforts were put forth to clean up the building, make some necessary repairs and encourage the people to attend. At first the work proceeded slowly due to lack of money and the distance traveled by those seeking to establish a Baptist Witness in the River Hills.

David was sawmilling in the Seagrove area where he met and later married Lydia King. It was here that he also came into contact with Bascome King and the Asbury Baptist Church.

Asbury Baptist Church had been organized on October 8, 1926 by Rev. J. R. Comer, along with J. H. Vipperman, Eli Lawrence, W. H. Pegram, Bascome King, Vela King, Charlie Yow, Mrs. Dainey Lucas and Gertie Hancock. The building in which they met had previously been a Methodist Church which had closed its doors due to lack of attendance. Brother King began to manifest the fruits of the spirit and the call to the ministry. During this time he preached as he had opportunity. While assisting the Maple Springs Church, he was invited to join in the new work being established in the River Hills of Richmond County.

Brother King was ordained to the gospel ministry on January 23, 1930. Later that year a revival was run at River View where ten persons accepted Christ and presented themselves for baptism. Brother "Shine" Reynolds borrowed a pick-up truck for transportation and the group proceeded to the Asbury Church on Sept. 21, 1930. The minutes of the church state that: "Brother Bascome King (on this date) baptized ten candidates for a Baptist Church to be established near Rockingham in Richmond County."

Bethel Baptist Church was organized by Rev. Bascome King on August 20, 1930. The presbytery consisted of Rev. W. E. Garner, pastor of Asbury Church, who served as Moderator and Charlie Fogge, a deacon of Asbury who served as Clerk. The following presented themselves to become charter members of the new church:

William and Lydia Hudson, Sarah Morse, Charlie and Sallie Warner, William Cagle, Walter and Bertha Reynolds, along with Ina Reynolds and Henry Elliott. The request for these letters were approved by the Asbury Church in conference on September 10, 1931...stating that they "be presented at Bethel Church".

The first revival at the new church was held on August 16, 1931. There were 9 people baptized into the church fellowship. The following year 5 more joined the church by baptism. A revival held from August 20-27, 1933 brought 2 additional souls into the Kingdom. God's work was truly bearing fruit!

God's work does not always flow so smoothly. The business session of October 15, 1932 centered on the questionable conduct of one the male members and the church voted for his name to be removed from the church roll. It seems that the early church frequently sought to "purify" itself; sometimes through a committee of Deacons or a special committee might be appointed to look into a matter. When acknowledgements were made and a penance secured, the church received the erring ones back into full fellowship. There were times that the church deemed it necessary to sever fellowship. The minutes also show that a few times the church denied the prospective members request to unite with Bethel Baptist Church.

Walter Reynolds and David Hudson had been serving as Deacons since the church was organized but on Nov. 18, 1933 the church elected Brother Dewey Shepherd to the deaconship, Brother C. A Fogge of the Asbury Church formed a presbytery and proceeded to examine and ordain Dewey as a Deacon.

It is interesting to note the first financial records dated 1933 which lists the collection as follows:

Jan. 15	No Service	Feb. 19	\$1.50
Mar. 19	1.75	Apr. 16	No Collection
May 21	4.75	June 18	2.10
July 16	.65	Aug. 20	7.30
Sept. 17	1.10	Oct. 15	1.40
Nov. 19	1.10	Dec. 18	4.25

Total collection for the year: \$25.90

In 1934 the collection dropped to \$13.85

On June 16, 1934 Mr. N. Hassell Mills became the first of a long line of men to answer the call to the gospel ministry. He was licensed to preach and in September of the same year moved his membership to the First Baptist Church of Rockingham. That same year a bell tower was added to the church by Cecil Smith.

The young church now expressed a desire to become a part of the Pee Dee Baptist Association. In September 1935, David Hudson, Walter Reynolds and Dewey Shepherd were appointed to attend the annual meeting and present the formal request to the Association. The 1937 minutes of the annual meeting state: "Thereafter the Committee on New Church Applications reported that Riverview Church, Richmond County applied for admission in 1936 and had since acquired its church building and had otherwise qualified for admission". Upon a motion by C. E. Ruffin, Committee Chairman, this church was received under the name of Bethel.

The minutes of November 16 through December, 1935 are labeled "Minutes of the River View Church" thus indicating this was the original name chosen because of the beautiful view of the river from the hill upon which the church was built. The name was changed to Bethel Baptist Church on April 25, 1937...The Methodist Conference agreed to sell the old Bethel Methodist Church building to the Baptist for \$110.00 if they would retain the name "Bethel". It was put before the people and they agreed to the terms of the purchase. David Hudson offered to purchase the property with money he received as "mustering out pay" and the church voted to repay the loan as soon as possible.

The following account was written by Billy Covington and appeared in the POST DISPATCH dated August 26, 1937:

"Old Bethel Church, for 92 years a unit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is now a Baptist Church. The transformation took place six weeks ago when the N. C. Conference deeded the property to David Hudson, Ed Green, and Dewey Shepherd as a Board of Trustees for Bethel Baptist Church.

Bethel ceased to be a methodist charge 16 years ago. For a time the church was vacant, but in 1927 some members of the Baptist church obtained permission to hold services there. A church and

Sunday School was organized and Rev. Bascome King, of Montgomery County, was engaged as pastor, a position he still holds. Under his leadership the new church has gradually increased in strength until they now own the property and are proceeding with extensive improvements. The building has been recovered and plans are now maturing to have it painted, both inside and out.

So under happy circumstances the congregation and many outside friends gathered at the old church last Sunday, August 15, for an all-day service and celebration...the beginning of a revival meeting which closes tomorrow night (Friday). Services start at 7:30. Ministerial student, Eddie Batten of Worthville, is assisting the pastor.

Almost every bench was occupied at the morning service, and both old and young were orderly and unusually attentive while Pastor King delivered a very strong old-time sermon. The collection at this morning service deserves special mention. It was the most impressive scene this writer has witnessed at any of the old churches. The pastor spoke briefly of the fine work the Sunday School children were doing for their church and announced that he would receive their collection first, A plate was placed on the secretary's table in front of the pulpit and the children were invited to come forward with their contributions. Eagerly and without hesitation they came from all parts of the auditorium while the choir sang "I Want To Be A Worker In The Vinyard of the Lord", and for a little while the rain of small denomination coins falling in the metal plate sounded like hail on a tin roof. Some of the little contributors were far below the public school age. It was a beautiful sight. The adult collection followed in the same way...each going to the plate with his or her contribution.

Dinner was served in the old-style country church way, on a long table in the grove. Everybody was invited to take part, and all appeared to greatly enjoy the plentiful supply of deliciously prepared food and the cordial hospitality of these friendly and sincere people of the hill county, who "live

at home and board at the same place."

W. D. Hudson has been superintendent of the Sunday School since it was organized ten years ago, and his work is a good example of what it takes to win complete success in any undertaking. Mr. Hudson lives near Rockingham and every Sunday his Ford can be seen on the road to Bethel. Once, when his old car became too worn and ailing to make the trip, Mr. Hudson refused to let that little inconvenience interfere with his Sunday School work and made the trip each week for eight months...by foot power, and the round trip from his home is 20 miles!

The material used in the construction of the present building was the best grade of selected longleaf pine. The inside walls and overhead ceilings are of wide, beautifully grained plank, apparently as sound as they were 90 years ago. They are now far too beautiful to ruin with paint, but the congregation is thinking more of the light a new coat of paint will bring than the beauty of its rare old walls. Finger marks made by the workmen when they nailed the overhead ceiling 92 years ago are still plainly visible. The floor planks are from 8 to 16 inches wide. The congregation was recently offered \$1.00 each for the 16 inch ones that are 12 feet long..the offer included replacing them with other planks..but the offer was refused.

Richmond County has many beautiful landscapes, but none is richer or grander than the view from the church yard at Bethel. Seven miles of the great Pee Dee River can be seen winding its way through the blue hills that fade away in the distance, farther than the eye can reach. The visible valleys and lower elevations that produced luxuriant crops of corn, small grain and cotton in the days of slavery, and before the development of the sandhill country, are now largely deserted and mostly overgrown with forests, the beautiful evergreen spruce predominating. This tree is of little value, save for firewood, but it contributes much to the charm of this enchanting region, especially in the winter times.

Amid these wonderfully beautiful surroundings

another country church once dead is now rising again to a position of power and influence for good in its community, and the untiring work of the faithful group of men and women and children richly deserve the commendation of all the good people of the county."

In 1939 the "Lord's Acre Program" was begun where by the members planted a crop and gave the proceeds toward the building. Rev. Bascome King, Dewey and Delphine Shepherd along with David Hudson, Daisy Shepherd and Brent German contributed \$46.95 from one acre of peas, one acre of peanuts, one-half acre of potatoes and one-half acre of sorghum cane. Cash contributions from other members enabled the loan on the building to be paid off by April, 1940.

A letter was circulated by the Clerk David Hudson, among the people in the community stating the church had been purchased and asking for donations of "any amount, large or small" to assist in making some necessary repairs. Those donations are listed as follows:

J. S. Swink	Battle Lee	W. A. Patterson
C. S. Ross	B. S. Meacham	Wade Troy
Robert Swink	Bill Crumbly	Donald Crumbly
Jim Maske	L. T. Dawson	W. Z. Davis
W. G. Legette	Margaret McInnis	Gladys Swink
Lonnie Wallace	Willie Wallace	J. R. Morse
Walter McDonald	J. D. Patterson	Harry Fielder
Charlie White	Homer Melton	R. A. Bullard
Leon Patterson	Eugene Porter	Paul Hogan
Mitchell Stone	H. M. Pullen	Paul Shaw
Reid Hogan	Mike Gillis	Juanita Patterson
L. W. McCisle	Walter Dunn	Connie Patterson
Rainer Richardson	Harrison Sneed	D. L. Henry
Strimon Fields	Ernest Gillis	E. B. Morse
Joe Crumbly	J. F. Homer	S. T. Covington
Bud Thompson	Albert Cagle	Lonnie Williams
Ophelia Gillis	Gladys Efird	

Donations ranged from 10 cents to \$4.82 for a total of \$31.69.

In order to establish a better system of finances the church decided to put all the money received into a general fund. The Treasurer was to pay the bills and keep a record of all expenses. On September 20, 1941 thirteen members pledged to give a tenth of what they made. The Treasurers report for February 1942

indicated a balance of \$110.75 after the bills were paid.

Most of the congregation traveled several miles for Sunday School and preaching. Cottage prayer meetings were held in the homes of the members on the week-ends when there was no preaching service. Because of the distance and hardship of travel, some of the members in the Hudson Town area considered the possibility of establishing a church which would be a "wing of Bethel". The matter was proposed and discussed with the majority of those present agreeing to try to do it. This conference took place on January 17, 1943 laying the groundwork for what eventually became Sandy Ridge Baptist Church. (For further information refer to the History of Sandy Ridge Church).

Bethel was now active in many areas: Sunday School was held every Sunday morning. Preaching was on every third Sunday with business meetings on the third Saturday night. The Lord's Supper was held once a year, usually in May or June. Revival was held annually in August. Some of the revival "helpers" were: Rev. Will Garner, John Blalock, Grady Brewer, Barney Lawrence, and Robert Batton. The church also participated in the cooperative program and supported the Baptist Hospital, Wake Forest College and Mills Home for children.

1945 saw more improvements to the building. The church was underpinned with block, a new floor was laid and new song books ordered since the piano had been purchased the previous year. Harry Raney, Dewey Shepherd and Walter Hudson served as a committee to look after the work. The next year the church removed the two front doors and made a single entrance. The rear of the building was extended toward the cemetery making space for a pulpit area. The center post were removed from the sanctuary and a vestibule and two classrooms were created. These rooms afforded more privacy than the curtains used to partition the auditorium. Minutes for April 1947 show the cost of renovations as almost \$600.00. They also state, "The church is behind with the pastor's salary \$70.00 with only \$17.05 in the treasure. The pastor's salary was finally brought up to date on February 5, 1950.

Originally the church used candles mounted on the wall for lighting. They later bought oil lamps; then

switched to a battery system. Finally they bought a Hi-Light generator which was used until 1954. The church decided to get the REA to run a power line from Key's Crossing at a cost of \$500.00. This amount was applied to the monthly bill until the cost was absorbed. The light plant was sold to Roy Shepard.

In September 1949 preacher King asked the church to go from quarter-time to half-time. He proposed to have an additional preaching service on the third Sunday of each month. He would receive the collection for that Sunday in addition to his current salary. The church continued on a half-time basis until 1953.

Preacher King's health began to deteriorate in 1950 and the following year he had difficulty pastoring the church. In August the church voted to pay his salary as long as he lived.

Many of the people did not have a way to go to church except by walking. In April 1950 the church discussed buying a bus. Walter and Carl Hudson, Dee Hawks and Dewey Shepard were elected to look into the matter. A used school bus was purchased for \$100.00 and used until December 1951. The bus body later was used as a Sunday School classroom. Another bus was purchased, but in 1956 there were some problems with discipline on the bus. The church voted not to run the bus at night if the situation did not improve. The bus continued in use until 1961.

Maurice Cooper became pastor on June 21, 1952 following the death of preacher King. A building fund was started with Milton Chappel as treasurer. In February of the following year the church voted a "wing off of Bethel" which became Sandy Ridge Baptist Church. The same year a committee engaged Mr. Covington to build some new church pews. These were later replaced and put in the Sunday School rooms. They remained there until 1986 when they were sold and the money used to buy metal folding chairs.

Bill Currie became pastor in July 1953. By January the church had begun to grow and needed additional room. Plans for 4 classrooms and a front porch were approved. The church voted to borrow \$2,000.00 to be repaid by special offering on the third Sunday of each month. In June the Deacons recommended going over to the left side of the church and building a

new sanctuary because "the present building is very rotten". They also suggested having preaching every Sunday morning and evening along with Training Union beginning the first Sunday in August. The church agreed. Final payment on the note was made in December of 1962.

Nothing was done about a new sanctuary. They recommended that two additional Sunday School rooms be built using Building Fund money. The church agreed to refund any money given by those who objected.

In March 1956 the church voted to return to half-time to allow Brother Currie more time to visit and study. This way he could get a second church and quit his job at the mill.

Brother Currie suggested a "Field Day" on April 1st. The people were asked to come prepared to work around the church and bring a lunch. A similar practice is currently held on "Bethel Day" on the first Saturday in May. For many years the members brought their lunch and spent the day working together. In 1984 and 1985 they were treated to a "pig-picking" and in 1986 the pastor, Clinton Bailey, provided chicken and dumplings. In 1985 work was begun toward cleaning up the cemetery. Trees have been removed and Rev. Bailey has placed markers at each of the graves. The church now plans to complete the grading and sow grass. Many good things have been accomplished as the members and friends of Bethel came together for this special day or whenever a task requires extra pairs of hands.

Howard Benoy became pastor in January of 1960. He was serving Beverly Hills Baptist and Community prior to his call to Bethel. He continued to serve as pastor of Community Church and Bethel until Bethel began full-time services on June 4, 1961. In September the church approved a budget of \$110.00 per week.

Youth week was observed for the first time during the week of April 1-8, 1961. The young people were in charge of the evening service. Harvey Gerald, Jr. preached and Tony Benoy led the choir.

In July of 1962 the church decided to purchase new pews at a cost of \$48.00 each. The members agreed to purchase 15 pews. Volunteers were asked to pledge to pay the purchase price for a pew over a period

of three months. Those pledging to purchase a pew or pews were: Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Arrington, Dee Hawks, Mr. & Mrs. Athos Richardson, Walter Hudson, Rev. & Mrs. Benoy, Rev. Harvey Gerald, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Currie, Coleen Hoover, J. E. Nelson, Edwin Troxler, Mrs. Eddie Baxley and Rev. Wilbur Richardson. These pews are still in use although they were refinished in 1984.

For 35 years the people traveled a path through the cemetery to one of the two out-houses located on the edge of the woods. In July 1963 the church decided to go modern and build two indoor bathrooms. Following the approval of a loan for \$600.00 the church appointed John Currie and Elmer Nelson as a committee to see that the work was done. The bathrooms were partially built by the members themselves and the load was repaid by August 1965.

In September of 1964 a number of Bethel people asked for their letters to begin what became Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. (For more information see Pleasant Hill History).

In November, 1964 the church voted to purchase an electric organ to be paid for through pledges. The organ was purchased and Jennie Stoner along with Helen Benoy served as organist. For sometime the organ added beauty to the worship services. There were times however when on one was available to play. Later a series of breakins occurred. The pulpit chairs and one air conditioner were stolen. One air conditioner was damaged as the thieves tried to remove it. None of these items were ever recovered and new chairs were purchased. In 1978 the church decided to sell the organ to prevent it being stolen.

The church felt the need for a "planning committee" to plan any get-togethers (like suppers), to visit the sick and needy and advise the young people. In March of 1965 the following were elected to this responsibility: Mr. & Mrs. Gurney Bennett, Jennie Clark, Ruby Raines and Talmadge Gerald. This committee has continued to function since that time although those composing the committee has changed over the years.

Since the resignation of Howard Benoy in March the church has been without a pastor. Brother Glenn Snider accepted the church in April 1965. All of the previous pastors had lived "off the field", but

Brother Snider desired to live in the area. After some discussion and looking around he decided to place his trailer on the property of Mr. Sam Hawks.

The church was slowly changing with the times. For several years the only drinking water available was brought from the spring across the road. Every Sunday someone made a trip down the hill and back. The bucket was placed on the table and a common dipper was used by everyone who wished to drink. In August 1963 the church voted to put a pump at the spring to bring the water up the hill. Dee Hawks and his sons, Leon, Ronnie & Mike, along with Howard and Tony Benoy took a new-ground plow and a mule to open the ditch for the pipe. A large rock along with as many as could "hang-on" was used to hold the plow down as several trips were made until the furrow reached the required depth.; The trip up-hill each time cleared the dirt for the next cut. The pump was finally installed but had to be frequently "babied" to get enough pressure to pump the water up the hill.

After having the electrical wire cut down and stolen and continual problems associated with the system the church finally decided to dig a well on the church property. The well and house were completed in 1971.

Preacher Snider had a 30-minute radio program each Sunday on station WEEB in Southern Pines. Many of the young people traveled along to help with special music. Among those were: Larry Wayne, Doris, & Ann Hudson, Wayne Richardson, Jennie Clark, Glenda Carroll, Ruth & Linda Davis, Martha Hoover, Eomi Locklear, and Louise Chappel. The church finally voted to discontinue the program in October, 1967. The money previously used to sponsor the program was then given to Brother Snider to assist with his school expenses at Fruitland.

The church took another step forward with the decision to collect money on the fourth Sunday of each month for the purchase of property on which to build a parsonage. About two years later the Deacons brought a proposal to purchase the home of Walter and Virginia Henderson at a cost of \$7,600. A loan of \$4,500 along with the money in the savings was applied toward the purchase. Dedication of the parsonage was held on March 7, 1970.

Early in 1970 the Ingram property surrounding the church was sold to Jess Meacham. At this time Eben Ingram (grandson of the original doner) gave the church one-half acre of additional land. In September the church allocated \$120 to clear the property. A dozer was hired and the remaining money was used to landscape and plant grass.

Apparently some re-occurring questions continued to arise as to the voting rights of the membership. In October 1971 the church decided that "only those active in the church would have voting power". Rev. Snider, along with Georgia Carroll and Glenda Suttts, Clerk, were given the responsibility of separating the church roll into "active" and "inactive" lists.

Fellowship has always been one of the outstanding characteristics of Bethel. The people just seem to enjoy the company of one-another and love to include anyone who cares to join them. Many good times were spent in the early day around a table under the big oak tree. At other times they met in a building at the home of Dee & Mae Hawks. This was the first "fellowship hut" and was the location of many pleasant memories for almost eight years. In 1972 the people saw the need of a building at the church. By February, 1973 the building was under construction but not completed. At this time the church voted to use what funds were available in the treasury and to borrow the necessary amount to complete the project. It was wonderful to have our own place for fellowship, celebrations, and family get-togethers. The building also served as a community building and voting place.

The new property now provided a place for the young people to play. The church granted them permission to make the area behind the parking lot into a playground. A shuffle board court was laid out in the fellowship hall and softball and horse shoes was frequently enjoyed by the group. By 1976 the church had voted to take a more active part through sponsoring a church softball team. This has been continued periodically for the past 10 year.

Bethel Baptist Church along with the Pee Dee Association began a joint mission effort in the Derby area. In January of 1972 Wayne Richardson was called to serve as pastor. The mission later became Derby Baptist Church.

Again the church sought to involve the membership in the decision making process. The Deacons had been serving as Nominating Committee, Budget Committee, as well as a Clearing committee for church business. In August of 1974 the church decided to elect or appoint an annual committee to nominate church officers. The Deacons continue to recommend the budget each year.

Rev. Snider resigned in July of 1975 after serving the church for 10 years.

Earl Jones became pastor of Bethel in October, 1975. He was very active in the church as well as the community. He assisted with the little league baseball team and was very active with the Ellerbe Rescue Squad.

There were many cottage prayer meetings held in the homes of many of the members on Saturday night. This helped to create a strong bond of fellowship. Once a group of about 20 young people and adults went camping at Myrtle Beach. Since the Jones' had young teens much time was spent working and playing together.

Due to its isolated location, the church experienced a series of break-ins. A new air conditioner was stolen and another one severely damaged. The three pulpit chairs were also stolen during this time. The church parking lot often had beer cans scattered around. The Sheriff's Department was asked to check the property more often and a night light was installed.

Rev. Jones led Bethel to join with Cartledge Creek and Pleasant Hill in combined Thanskgiving services. The services rotated yearly from church to church.

Brother Jones left in August, 1979 to take a pastorate in West Virginia. Wilbur Sullivan filled in until the church called Howard Walters as pastor on November 11, 1979.

The Walters home had burned shortly before their coming to Bethel. The church people donated several items of furniture and the church purchased a living room suit. Everything possible was done to assist the pastor and his family to be as comfortable as possible in the parsonage.

Howard was well liked by the young people and he spent a lot of time with them.

Christmas was always a wonderful time at Bethel. There was the traditional Christmas play in the san-

ctuary. A beautiful decorated tree filled one side of the building with the floor underneath covered in brightly wrapped presents. Santa made his annual visit to distribute suckers to all the children. At the close of the program everyone present received a bag of candy, fruits and nuts. In 1982 the practice of having Santa was discontinued and the tree along with the presents were moved to the fellowship hall. This arrangement continued until 1985 at which time the tree again graced the church in observance of Christmas.

A church bulletin was begun by Rev. Walters with Beverly Hills church printing it each week. This continued for about six months. The church also voted to start a library beginning with some books offered by Odell Shepherd which had belonged to his mother, Reba. Shelves were later purchased and the books placed in the office beside the pulpit. A new piano was also purchased.

The church began to have problems in July of 1983. Finances declined and the pastor requested to be allowed to take a secular job to offset his salary. Rev. Walters resigned in September 1983 and later requested to be re-instated. The church voted to allow his resignation to stand.

The church remained without a pastor for a year. During this time Mike Smith and Wilbur Sullivan filled the pulpit. Meanwhile Mike graduated from Fruitland and accepted a church in Lake Toxaway. The church wanted to call Brother Sullivan but he felt led not to accept the leadership of the church.

In February 1984 the church began to consider some needed repairs on the parsonage. A pulpit committee had been elected and instructed to draw up a list of "things expected of our pastor" and what the pastor could expect of the church in return. The church decided the parsonage needed an overhaul and set aside \$1500.00 for the work. As time went by they decided to remodel the kitchen and bathroom, install a new electrical service and carpet the house. The total expenses amounted to over \$3,000.00

Meanwhile the Pulpit Committee after a long search contacted Rev. Clinton Bailey. He was called as pastor and assumed his responsibility on September 1, 1984. A travel trailer became his week-end home until the

work on the parsonage was completed. Vivian and Clinton moved into the parsonage in October.

In October the Pee Dee Association began a ministry at the N. C. Motor Speedway in Rockingham. Several adults, Ray & Mabel Carroll and others along with some of the young people from Bethel volunteered to assist in the ministry of witnessing, fellowship, and preaching services. This ministry is jointly sponsored by the Baptist State Convention and continues to grow annually.

In December the young people ask the church to consider the purchase of a bus for church activities. They had been using a pickup truck equipped with a cover. Enthusiastic young people were in need of better means to travel. They agreed to raise the money through the sale of firewood if the church would buy the insurance and tags. The bus was bought and paid for in about two months. It has taken the youth to evangelism rallies in Greensboro, the N. C. Zoo, and ball games. Church groups have gone to the mountains for a week-end of canoeing down the river, and the adults have gone to Charlotte for a special program by Jerry Clower. We have also used the bus during Vacation Bible School.

A watchnight service was held on December 31 with two singing groups on the program which began at 8 p.m. The church was packed for the service which concluded with a period of worship as the new year was ushered in.

The two gas heaters in the sanctuary were replaced with a modern heating system and the sanctuary air conditioned. These were installed by the pastor and some of the men. We were still paying for the piano; however, the church put on a drive and the debt paid off. The money left over was put in the building fund.

While repairing the sanctuary floor the men discovered some very serious damage to the sills and framework of the building. The church discussed the situation in regular conference and decided to call a special conference on Sunday, June 2, 1985. At this time the church decided to build a new sanctuary and elected a planning committee consisting of representatives of the various age groups in the church. This comm-

ittee brought four proposals as to where and what type of building to plan to build. Out of 52 members present the vote was overwhelming in favor of building a church with a full basement for Sunday School rooms to be located behind the parting lot. At present over \$7500.00 has been given to the building fund and plans are moving forward toward the new church.

As more people began to attend, the church voted to put bumpers in the parking lot. These were installed in September, 1985 along with a new church sign. Additional tables and chairs were also purchased for the fellowship hall.

In November the question of a new Deacon arose following the death of Walter Hudson. The church discussed the situation for some time and finally decided to establish a rotating system of Deacons with three deacons serving in this capacity. The first Deacon to rotate would be Clifton Stutts. On October 12, 1986 Hal Stutts was ordained to serve a three year term as Deacon.

The pastor asked the church about a special celebration in August, 1987 as this would mark the 60th anniversary of Bethel Baptist Church. After much discussion plans were proposed and adopted which included the writing of a church history, a church directory and an "ole timey" celebration. We are now in the process of finalizing those plans.

God has been good to those who have assembled through the years on the hill overlooking the river. His spirit is very much alive in the descendents of many of those great saints of the past. May that hope that burned within their hearts become the means through which Bethel Baptist Church may move forward and accomplish even greater things for our Saviour.

* * * * *

Many thanks and appreciation to those who have shared a part of themselves with me and in do so..... have made this history possible.

Clinton Bailey

In the early 1940's when the United States, was coming out of the Great Depression, most of the people left the Hill Country, moving closer to town. Many of these people didn't have good transportation, only mules, wagons, and by foot.

With large families of their own, Mr. David Hudson and Dewey Shepard loaded their cars down on Sunday mornings for church. Prayer meeting was held every Friday night at the Hudson's or Shepherd's home, because it was so far to church. The Home Coming was always held the third Sunday in August, and we spent most of the day at church, with revival services Monday through Saturday night of that week.

Mr. Hugh Greene from Ellerbe drove his big truck to this revival in 1942 and carried a large group of people. We worked all day on the farm, quit in time to go to church for the last afternoon service. Each family carried supper and spread it on the table under the trees. After eating the men had a certain spot they went to in the woods. The women and small children gathered in the church, the young people went across the road to an old house for prayer before the night service. I was saved during this revival, we were baptized in Mountain creek after the morning worship service. I don't recall just how many were baptized, but there was a long line.

In those days the left front corner, where the choir is today, was called the "Amen Corner", where all the Deacons sat during the services. Instead of an Alter, it was called the Mourners Bench. I don't see how anyone could sit under the powerful preaching, and singing "Oh Why Not Tonight", as the minister came out of the pulpit, "Do not let the world depart and close thine eyes against the light". Who could forget the Rev. Manse Sasser and Rev. Garner from Seagrove, N.C. , their voices like thunder. They knew some of the people were unsaved and you would think they weren't going to close the service.

There were a few old men of the hills who wouldn't dare enter the church. If someone they knew died, they came and stood in the church yard during the

funeral.

We went to church when it was so cold, with two pot belly heaters and large cracks in the muddy plank floor. Everyone seemed warm just being in church together...

Two buckets of water were brought from the spring under the steep hill across the road, and put on a table between the two doors. Kerosene lamps were used for the night services. Later on pastor B.K. King brought a Delco Plant to use for power. Sometime during the service the lights would get weak and Carl Hudson, Walter Hudson, or Dee Hawks would go get it started back.

There were 3 Sunday School classes held in the auditorium. Mr. Raymond Jenkins was the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. Randolph Williams was the choir leader and adult Sunday School teacher. Mrs. Minnie Maske was the teacher for the children and Dewey Shepherd was pianist for 6 years.

The church was growing so we bought a bus, because so many people didn't have a way to church. Mr. Eddie Baxley was the first driver because he lived farther down the road.

In the early 1950's the W.M.S. was organized and the Brotherhood was started. Meetings were held in the homes on Saturday nights with a large attendance.

Our dear pastor was getting feeble. His last sermon he preached sitting in the pulpit in a chair. He passed on in July, 1952 after 24 years of service to the church. Maurice Cooper as a young man was called to be pastor.

In 1953 Rev. W. T. Currie known as "Bill" was called to pastor. The attendance was getting larger, so 6 Sunday School classes were added, two bathrooms and a front porch was built. New shingles went on the outside and the inside was painted. Also the front yard was fenced off and a welcome sign was put up.

After all the work on the church and yard was finished, we had a dedication on Sunday morning. There was dinner on the ground and a photographer took pictures. Some people had left for home, some children were playing and everyone didn't get into the picture.

The first Bible School was held in the late 1950's with a good attendance. J. C. Hudson, Jr. won a prize for saying the books of the Bible at commencement. The children were eager to go each day. Mrs. Ollie Stephens was one of those lovely junior teachers who has gone to be with the Lord.

Grady Smith and J. E. Nelson promised to sing, if 150 people were there for Sunday School by a certain time. So 150 people came and they had to sing.

Grady Smith had started back to church during this time. He was helping the church financially. On one Sunday he gave \$500 which was a good amount in those days (especially with 5 children at home).

J. E. Nelson was also a hard and faithful worker. He brought it before the church that he would buy a new pew, so others followed and bought pews. Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Airington bought new pulpit furniture. The older womens Sunday School class bought the third pulpit chair and a large Bible for the pulpit table.

Everyone enjoyed working together and seeing the church grow so fast. Once in a while we got together for fellowship and meals. One Saturday night the whole church went to the old King Club House, my Dad and some more men made catfish stew.

Mr. Benny Maness, who is now retired, held many revivals at Bethel. I shall never forget some of his serman titles "The Shoe", "The Potters Wheel", "The Valley of Dry Bones", "Honey Bees", and "The Well Tickle". It was during one of these revivals that 50 people were saved. I have seen the church full during revivals, sinners got so far in the back as they could get but they came to the alter. Some people would come before the preaching, some after the service. They couldn't leave because the spirit was dealing with them. Some people clinched the pews and left unsaved.

The W.M.S. was growing. We would have as many as 25 women. There were two groups of G.A.'s and Sunbeams for small children. Della King was the first Sunbeam teacher. Finally the W.M.S. dropped to 10 to 12 people... The faithful few kept it going -- Della King, Rowena Baxley, Reba Shepard and Mae Hawks. These ladies have gone on to a better world.

The Brotherhood was growing, Mr. Manley Reynolds one of those old men on Sunday morning, once in a while, would get up in church and say scripture using the ABC's. It amazed the people to hear him use the scripture in many different ways. David Hudson, Dewey Shepherd, Grady Smith, Norman, Williams, J. E. Nelson, Walter Hudson, Steven Tebe Shepard, and Manley Reynolds, who the Lord called home, were part of the first Brotherhood. My dad Tebe Shepard wrote his own funeral serman and requested the Brotherhood sing "Lord I'm Coming Home". Tebe was the first of these men to pass on. The Brotherhood finally broke up after a few years.

In 1960 Howard Benoy was called to pastor the church. Two more Sunday School classes were added. The W.M.S. started a morning service for those who couldn't attend the night service.

Each year the Bible School grew. One year the average attendance for the week was 75, which was good for a church so far out in the hills.

The first history of the church that I know of was written by a historian of the Pee Dee Baptist Association, Mr. John D. White, while Mr. Benoy was pastor.

Rev. Glenn Snider was called to pastor the church in the mid 1960's. He hadn't been there long before we got a well dug. No more trips down under the hill to get water or fix the pump. We had a pump in the spring and one under the church to help pull the water up the hill. During Bible School one year, the young men dug the ditches to get the water into the church. That was their project for the year. Also the first trip to Ridgecrest was while the Snider's was at Bethel. Doris Hudson Gerald, Jennie Clark Stoner, and Glenda Carroll Stutts were chosen to go that year. They enjoyed it so much they went the next year and took more girls. There were several cottages full and they couldn't wait for the next June to come so they could go again.

We used a building at Dee Hawks for the fellowship hall. Some of the time we had Sunday dinners, other times Saturday suppers, but the Halloween parties were the most fun. Some adults dressed up as well

as the young people. Many pastors were called from Bethel. When they left, it felt like part of the church family was missing. Nine ministers so far have been called out of Bethel, and so many people have come and gone, but someone would come and take their place.

Many years ago my grandfather Stephen Tebe Shepard had told me about farming the land, fishing at Grassy Island and going to Bethel Methodist Church. He has been gone from this life 40 years. If only he could see Bethel today!! What a difference.

Little did I think, as an 11 year old, that one day one of those people I was going to church with would be my husband or one of those preachers. We were also baptized the same day. God blessed us with 6 lovely children, one is buried in the church cemetery. We have 9 grandchildren, who gives us great joy. We brought all our children up in Bethel Church, where most of them go today. We were called to Sandy Ridge Church in June 1972, and we were dismissed from there in September, 1986. We have been back home at Bethel 5 months now, where we belong with some of the worlds greatest people. Yes, Bethel is full of memories and indeed is a sacred old Sanctuary.

Ruby Shepherd Hudson

I remember many revivals and many people being saved. I remember the church being full many times and how the people enjoyed the services.

In the early days the land around the church was planted in cotton and corn. You could see the river and Grassy island from the church steps. I remember the men going down into the woods for prayer. They prayed for the people that were sinners and later you would see them coming to church..Saved.. and living a good life for the Lord.

There were so many people who came to church that I cannot recall them by name. I remember the revival in which fifty people were saved.

Rev. Carl Hudson

My memories of Bethel Church began when I was about five years old. I remember going to church with my grandmother, Mrs. Della King. Grandma was always faithful to her church. Many times she would have two or three different rides to church, just to make sure she got there. Of course any of us grandchildren who spent the night with her on Saturday, went to church with her on Sunday.

I remember the dinners we used to have under the big oak trees around the church. I remember the excitement that we children would have over all the cakes and pies at the dinners.

I also remember the church bus that was not only transportation to and from church but was great fun for all the young people. They had to put lights in the bus to keep check on our behaviour. I remember one young person hiring another young person to cut the wires.

We have all heard it said that history repeats itself. I'm reminded of this through our young people today. I'm also reminded of this when I see the bus we now have.

I remember when we were children going down to the gullies in front of the church and playing. We usually got into trouble for tearing or messing-up our clothes. Many times we got into trouble because we would lose track of time and miss church altogether.

Not only do I remember the playful times but also the serious times. I remember the Sunday School classes we used to have in the old school bus body beside the church where we were taught that Jesus loves us. I remember the revival of 1955 where heaven and hell were made very real...when the Holy Spirit showed me that I was lost...and only Jesus could save...I along with many others..I think about fifty...made a profession of faith...Today..I along with many of these hold fast, believing that God is able to keep that which we have committed to Him.

Everett "Buck" King

Last Sunday, August 19, 1951, I had the fortunate privilege of attending the morning session of the Bethel Baptist Church Home Coming with the friendly people of this beautiful hill country, whose slogan might also be "Unto These Hills". The music was fine with Dewey Shepherd at the piano and the whole congregation singing.

The morning sermon was delivered by Rev. Manse Sasser, who won the closest possible attention from the congregation from start to finish. His style was like that of Cyclone Mac McLendon in his best days--including powerful body action that sometimes carried him out in the audience as he quoted appropriate verses of scripture. His clothes were wet with perspiration when he finished.

On the pulpit was the Rev. B. K. King, who had been pastor of Bethel for 24 years--He was employed with the understanding he would never resign. His health is improving now and his devoted congregation is hoping that he will soon be able to fully resume his work.

As usual, the dinner hour at Bethel is a happy time. As in former years the dinner was spread on a very long table that was piled high with choice food from end to end. And you were begged to continue eating. The ladies of the church had over prepared, as they usually do, and much tempting food was returned to baskets.

Bethel is the only country church that I know of operating a Sunday School bus for the benefits of its pupils. This bus travels from fifteen to twenty miles every Sunday morning, transporting about fifty pupils that have no other way to travel. The school has an enrollment of 139.

Much should be written about this famous old place, but it would take too much space at this time. Hope I may be able to write more about it sometime.

H.W.C.

"Walking Billy" Covington

As I look at Bethel now, with all the modern day touches, the classrooms and water in the yard, it is hard to remember back to 1930. When I first knew Bethel it was one big room with two doors, six windows and a big wood stove (used for heating) which stood in the middle of the church. Our benches were two thick boards put together; one for the back and one for the seat with open spaces between the back and seat. They were not comfortable and they were very hard. We had a long table out to the side of the church for our big dinners and suppers. Rev. Bascome King was our pastor at the time and was for over 25 years.

I think the happiest time of life was spent at Bethel. I can still see the mule and wagons and buggies in the church yard along with some cars. The people that had wagons and buggies had certain places to tie their animals up to trees during church. The service usually lasted two or three hours. I can still see Charlie Hudson sitting in the "Amen corner" chewing his tobacco and spitting out the window. There was Uncle Henry Elliott making a talk and telling about the grass "for God's sake" and all the church laughed at him. Everyone seemed to have faith and love for one another. There was my mother (Mary H. Smith) on her knees, praying, asking God to bless the church and its people with a special blessing for her husband and children. Her prayers, I will never forget. There were other people and other things that happened at Bethel that will always live in my memory.

Elva Smith Reynolds

In 1964 when I first went to Bethel Church, they had a fine group of young people. We were able by the grace of God to lead many of them to the Lord, baptizing them into the fellowship of the church. I also had the privilege of marrying many of them.

Where we were there we build a fellowship hall and purchased a parsonage. My ministry at Bethel for the most part was joyful. The people of Bethel were a real blessing to us while we were there.

Also the Lord called four men into the ministry during my tenure at Bethel.

Rev. Glenn Snider

I went to Bethel Church from birth until I was fifteen years old. At that time, I joined Sandy Ridge Church where my father was pastor. In 1984 I came back to Bethel along with my husband, Randy and son Travis.

My parents, Carl and Ruby (Shephard) Hudson were faithful, active members. They made sure I was in church everytime, even when I didn't want to be. Today as an adult, I am thankful for their faithfulness and the way they brought me up.

I was saved and baptized at the age of 12. There were several of us baptized in Herbert King's pond. Something hilarious happened at this baptizing. When Rev. Snider baptized "Jimmy", he started screaming, "I'm drowning, I'm drowning".

Every Sunday morning the superintendent would ask if anyone has a birthday..If so, we would sing "Happy Birthday". Classes with perfect attendance were recognized also.

We had special singing every Sunday. Some of those singing were: Jennie Stoner and Wayne Richardson, Mrs. Snider and Glenda Stutts, Mrs. Snider and the Acteens, Rev. Bill Currie, Adult men. Rev. & Mrs. Snider, and the Junior Choir. Singing in the choir brings back a lot of memories. As a teenager, my friends and I were eager to take a part in filling up the choir. You could really feel the Spirit of God. Sometimes on Sunday night or on Wednesday night we would have just a song service because the singing was so spiritual.

Members were often given the opportunity to testify. These testimonies were very interesting and held the attention of even the younger children. It was wonderful to see people praising God and thanking Him for things He had done in their lives. I'll never forget the sound of my grandma Shepherd "Shouting" when the spirit of God was so strong.

Our first fellowship hall was in a building near Dee Hawks' home. We had some good times there. I'll never forget one Halloween when Opal and Walter Hudson dressed up. Because they wouldn't talk, no one knew who they were until the party was over. We now have a fellowship hall at the church. Our Halloween party in October, 1986 was one of the best. Watching the

pie eating contest would have given you a laughing stomach ache. We played a trick on the children. Everyone was having a hard time bursting the pinata. When it finally split open, the children were scrambling to get the candy and all of a sudden they realized that the pinata contained acorns instead of candy.

I also remember some things about my Sunday School classes: BEGINNER CLASS...Mrs. Della King would bring cookies from Buck Wall's store. PRIMARY CLASS...Mrs. Bertha Reynolds gave me an Easter basket, which I still have today. JUNIOR CLASS...Mrs. Edna Parker kept a chart on which she placed stars by our names. She would reward us for memorizing Bible verses, being present and bringing our Bibles. One summer she gave us a steak supper. INTERMEDIATE CLASS...Mrs. Jennie Stoner could really get to you. During one lesson she pointed out that God would not always knock at our hearts door. It was dangerous to keep saying "Another Day". The next time he knocked at my door, I answered..yes. Another thing she taught stands out in my mind and that is we should put God first in our lives, our fellowman second and ourselves last.

I was born, saved and baptized, married, and have a child buried at Bethel. This church will always be a special, hold place for me.

Lynn (Hudson) Nelson

In the Spring and Summer the church was always very beautiful with a bouquet of fresh flowers on the pulpit. Della King always felt it was her duty and privilege each Lord's day...beautiful red, yellow, and white dahlias, or tall straight spikes of gladiola. She grew them hardy and brilliant, close to her kitchen.

She could not read or write but she had a special gift of growing and arranging flowers. This talent she used to grace the House of God. Following the service the same beautiful arrangement usually brightened the room of a sick friend.

Summer time brought the hot sultry breezes and an invitation to the home of Mr. David Hudson for ice cream. Everyone in the community was invited and brought their own freezer. The eggs, milk, sugar and flavoring were mixed in a big blue enamel dish pan and poured into several freezers. The ice was chipped from a huge cold block, dropped into the wooden tubs and sprinkled with plain table salt. Then, the contest would begin to see who could produce the firmest ice cream in the shortest time. As the salt, brine and elbow grease turned the mixture into a soft slush, the crank grew hard to turn. The final stage required someone to sit on top to hold the freezer down until the crank would not move another notch. Then the lids were taken off and the dashers raised to identify the winner. Finally, the cool creamy velvet mixture along with a piece of home-made cake was enjoyed by all.

July 1, 1984. Today as I attended worship service, I perceived that this is the anniversary of my husband's eighteen years in the pastorate of this church. Reflecting upon the years with this dedicated congregation, who have enriched our lives, vivid memories of another congregation flickered across my mind. They were sweet warm memories of a congregation who had embraced us in its membership, enfolded us in its fellowship, and embarked us upon our spiritual pilgrimage of faith and ministry. Reflecting further in the pleasant coolness of the sanctuary on comfortable pews with polished hardwood under foot amid gracefull surroundings highlighted by colorful carpet and floral arrays, a profusion of contrasting memories floated to the surface of my mind. These rich strong memories arose from another time, of the humble church which we attended in our youth. They arose in vivid scenes and lingered ever so sharp and clear. Memories as the church appeared when my family became members there so many years ago are now etched in my mind forever.

The country church was located in the river hills of the county. In fact, many years ago before trees overgrew the open farming fields, a story-book view of the river could be enjoyed from the churchyard.

A red clay road leading to the river ran by the right side of the church, whose white exterior and sheet-tin roof had been tinted a reddish hue long ago, due to dust ascending and descending with the passing of every vehicle. In the dry summer, the red-dust choking clouds furiously rose from the road to ever so slowly settle, leaving a reddish tinge on everything. But in rainy wet weather, the road was a sticky miry mess of goo that stuck in great hunks to everything that touched it.

Between the red clay road and the church was a spiked iron fence which enclosed the graves of the church's founders with photographs of both patriarch and matriarch encased within the headstones. The rest of the cemetery marked by slate slabs of granite headstones stretched across the rear of the churchyard. Great oak trees realmed and shaded the church, the yard, and the cemetery.

Two paths wandered through the cemetery leading into the woods where at the end of each path sat outhouses marked "Men" and "Women" respectively. There the gray weatherbeaten structures stood dank, dark, and foreboding in the deep shadows. Only upon the extreme urgent calling of nature did one venture down those narrow shadowy paths. Once the call was imminent, however, the journey was made in speed and haste, accompanied by a friend.

Extending upward from a bare wind-swept red clay yard, two sets of wooden steps ascended directly to the two front doors of the church. A steeple housing a bell within was erected upward from the roof between the two doors. Inside the sanctuary, between the two doors, dangled the bell rope through a hole in the ceiling. Set against the wall, between the two doors, was a table holding two tin water buckets nestling accompanying dippers. The buckets of cool water had been carried from a spring at the bottom of a red clay hill, and inside both buckets and dippers were stained tinges of red. Everyone drank from common aluminum dippers whose handles ever rested on the rims of the buckets.

The floor's twelve inch wide, handhewn and roughly planed planks were pegged with wooden pegs in the days before nails were plentiful. Over the years,

the planks' worn smooth spots had dried and shrunk, leaving floor-length one-half-inch cracks. Since the church sat upon stone pillars, the cold winter wind blew underneath the church and swirled up through those cracks, freezing feet and legs.

The church's one-room-structure featured a cedar pulpit on a platform that extended from the front wall about six or nine feet. A piano pushed against the same wall, and the choir and "Amen Corner", composed of three pews each, faced each other from either side. The communion table placed in front of the pulpit displayed an embroidered scarf upon which was placed a vase of faded crepe paper roses. Directly behind the pulpit suspended by a wire from a nail, hung a beautiful scripted copy of the Ten Commandments demanding our allegiance.

The pews were most uncomfortable contraptions of rough pine handhewn and handplaned boards, which were twelve feet long, twelve inches wide, and two inches thick. Eight handmade unplanned pews filled each side of the church facing the pulpit. Upon each pew rested a soft-backed hymnal and a handfan. The hymnals' worn covers and dogeared pages belied many years of use; the fans imprinted with the name of an established funeral home, denoted their doners.

Between the two rows of pews in the wide aisle reaching from the doors to the communion table, stood two square support posts. They were placed an equal distance from each end of the aisle. In the middle of the broad aisle between those support posts stood a woodburning heater. The heater sported a black and rusty stove pipe extending upward to the ceiling where it connected with a chimney. But with cold air blowing up through the long wide cracks, in the floor, only the heat and warmth radiating outward was felt.

The ceiling and walls were comprised of twelve-inch wide boards with a length of sixteen or more feet. Age, red tinges of dust, and wisps of smoke gave them a dark warm appearance.

The older folk there related to the younger that these boards were of heart pine lumber and that if they were to catch fire they would burn with a great fervent heat like lightwood.

Curtains attached to wire stretched across the width of the one-room sanctuary provided a partition for Sunday School classes. When Sunday School was in session, the curtains were extended over the wire toward the only aisle. These once-white curtains, now revealing years of soil and a hefty collection of red dust, afforded four classes; the card class, junior class for children, a young people class, and an adult class. Within these four classes were divided the whole Sunday School membership. For Worship Service the curtains were gathered against the walls between the frosted glass windows.

High on these dark walls between the windows, little shelves held kerosene lamps with black smutted glass globes. The lamps provided a flickering light and reflected dark shadows on the walls and ceilings.

For years revivals was held the last week in August with a service at four o'clock and another at seven-thirty. At five-thirty, during intermission, supper would be spread on a plank table at the left side of the church under grand oak trees. There would be a spreading of corn-on-the-cob, peas and butter beans still warm from their noon day cooking, soggy tomato sandwiches equivalent to the "Hardee burgers" or "Big Mac" of today. We played, we ate, we romped, and we enjoyed good fellowship.

As teenagers during one of these revivals, my husband and I committed our lives to Christ. We were baptized in a nearby creek as it made its way to the River. We remained at the church many more years as we were gently nurtured and guided on our spiritual journey.

The church today bears little resemblance to the one in my childhood memory. Many changes have been made to the original structure which remains the base of the church. Long ago the red clay road gave way to gravel and tar blacktop so that dust clouds no longer swirl up and settle. Carpet covers the rough plant floor and its cracks. Air conditioning replaced the donated hand fans. Comfortable pews stand in the place of the roughly constructed ones of long ago. Water gushes forth from fountains pumped from the spring instead of having to be carried in water

buckets. Beautiful chandeliers now illuminate the sanctuary in contrast to those kerosene lamps. Modern restrooms and roomy Sunday School classes have taken the place of the gray weather-beaten outhouses and curtain partitions. Even a spacious fellowship hall tries with all its might to do for dinners and suppers what the table under the oak trees did so many years ago.

None of the changes though grand as they have been over the years, have dimmed the strong vivid scenes of that humble country church which are impressed and etched so strongly in my memory.

* * * *

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for memories that have lingered so rich and strong of a humble country church with uncomfortable pews, plank floors, kerosene lamps, revival services at four o'clock, suppers under shady oak trees, and especially of a committment to Christ that has shaped and molded our lives through the years.

Amen

Mattie (Baxley) Hudson

"SAVED"

I accepted Christ as my Saviour as a child. I shall never forget the message, "Hell", or the messenger Rev. Benny Maness.

He preached the message so plainly that I could almost see the flames and smell the smoke! I knew that I did not want to go to that awful place, and that Jesus was the only way out.

I accepted Him as my Saviour, and so did forty-nine others, during that revival meeting. Most were young people, and most were baptized and became members of Bethel.

In Christ,

Audrey P. Richardson

Bethel holds so many memories for me and my family. My family moved to Richmond County the week after Christmas in 1962. We had been moved in about 3 days when we were visited by Alvin Arrington and Rev. Howard Benoy inviting us to attend Bethel. My Dad, Cletuis Paul, was quick to tell them that he appreciated their invitation but he had already planned to visit Bethel since he had heard so many good reports about the church. We visited the church the first Sunday in 1963 and joined in February, 1963. My Mom and Dad felt very strongly about living for Christ. They made sure the family was in church every Sunday. I really thank God for the faithful Christian parents I had.

Thru the years Bethel has meant so much to me. This is where I met and married Ray in 1967. Since that time God has blessed our home and gave us two wonderful children who also accepted Christ as Savior in Bethel Church. It is because of these special memories of Bethel during OUR teen years that make us want to work with the young people of today. Ray has played a major role in organizing our RA group. He wants so very much for these young men. He wants to encourage them in their Christian life, help them realize that they are important in the work of the Lord. They need instruction in God's word and in living day by day for the Lord. He has enjoyed working with these boys on projects such as the signs pointing the way to Bethel, making model cars, playing softball and much more. With God's continued guidance, I know these young men will make fine Christian adults some day.

With the help of others I have been able to re-organize the Acteen group. There are presently 5 girls attending. We are working hard on our achievement levels. Through these levels the girls will learn to be more mission-minded and more caring for people all over the world, and to know God's love has no limitations. I hope these girls will be our WMU of tomorrow.

Bethel is fortunate to have the young people attending that we have. The love for each other was so

apparent when Tim Messer was killed in an automobile accident, it was a beautiful sight. You could see their love reaching out to each other trying to comfort and to be comforted. One young man said after the funeral "If I wasn't receiving a hug, I felt I should be giving one." You could tell they sought strength thru God to help get them thru this terrible tragedy.

I thank God for His love.

Mabel Paul Carroll

The best years of my life have been with my church family at Bethel. I received my Lord Jesus there at the age of eleven. I have many many memories there. I met my husband and married there. We are also raising our children there.

The most wonderful thing about Bethel; it is not the building, but the people. The love, concern, friendship, and prayer minded people.

Among the memories of homecoming's, revivals, Bible schools, and singings, one of the most outstanding to me was the time of church camp at Ridgecrest. Jesus and I had a long talk about my life. What I should do for Him as a Christian, Should I Be A Missionary? Jesus answered my prayer by letting me know I should be a missionary at home and in my community.

Bethel is a place where you can come and worship freely. It doesn't matter who you are or what you wear, you are always welcomed.

I thank God for this place and for these people. I pray that it will stay this way and continue to grow many many years ahead.

Glenda Carroll Stuttz

"WATER, BUT NO WATER"

How would you like to have forty-seven house guests at one time? Fun time you say? Teen girls here, teen boys there...sleeping bags everywhere. Bread, pimento cheese, bologna, hot dogs, buns, chili, slaw, mustard, catsup, Pepsi, Mountain Dew, RC's, Sprite, you name it--but where is the water?

Two bathrooms, two showers, milk jugs of water, coolers of water, fire truck--FIRETRUCK???

One Thursday during the summer of 1985 the pastor, Clinton Bailey, his wife Vivian, his grand daughter, Gayle Cornelius, and Tim Messer left Ellerbe for Miller Creek to prepare for the "invasion". After moving furniture, sweeping, cleaning up all around, we were about ready. After a good night's sleep we waited for the bus to arrive.

Friday was a beautiful sunny day. Everything was ready- then - CALAMITY! No Water! Call the fire department to bring a load of water to fill up the well. Some of the kids had not heard of using a pumper truck to deliver water--some fun!

Bonfire, roasted hot dogs, toasted marshmallows, mosquitoes, songs, excited youngsters- tired grown-ups. Sleeping bags here, there, everywhere. Boys in the large living room girls in the den- "Who gets the couches tonight...who gets them tomorrow night?" Giggles, laughs, whispers.." You boys stay out of the hall, get back in the living room"...Girls, quiet down and get to sleep". Who can sleep after the bus trip, food, and fun? About 2 a.m. nearly everyone is asleep.

Who is fixing breakfast? Fix you own, kids...Who has the coffee? Where is the water? Call the fire truck again.

Hurry up, it's time to go! The bus is loaded..The chase car is ready. Here we go up the mountain...Chug, Chug. "I've never been this high." "That's a long way down?" Finally, here we are..."That's a canoe?" "Who's with who?" "Can you paddle this thing? ..I'll go on the bus to Stone Mountain, I don't like the idea of being on that river."

The canoes take off..The bus leaves.."See you about 5 p.m." "We climbed all the way to the top..I'm tired.

When do we eat?...Did you see the mountain goats?"

Time to go get the brave canoers. Nearly everyone is back when we get there but there is one boy missing. "Buck, you and Linda take my car and we'll go look for him". It is a long drive from North Carolina to Virginia on back dirt roads. We follow the river until we can't go any further..Turn around, go back.. "Maybe he is back there by now". It has been two hours now. We get back to the pick-up point..Here come some canoes..Here is one boy walking down the road (he got tired of canoeing) But he is not the missing boy. Finally there is a shout! "Here he is!" Glenda and Hal have David in their canoe.

Wet, bedraggled boys and girls..sunburned..but tired and happy. Some had only turned their canoe over one time, some as many as nine times. Buck lost a shoe. Some lost cameras, watches, and even their lunch.

Back on the bus to return to Millers Creek. Too late to cook the spaghetti and fix the sauce and all.. we'll eat sandwiches and go to bed.

"I have to wash my hair and take a shower..I'm so dirty..where is the water?..Just use a little on a wash cloth and shower and wash your hair when you get home." No trouble getting to sleep tonight.

Early Sunday morning we do down to McNeils and get all the water jugs filled up so everyone can at least have clean hands and faces.

Breakfast is so good...Now it is time for a short worship service. We have prayer and Odell reads the Bible and gives a short message. It seems so peaceful here and God seems so close.

Now it is time to leave to go back to Ellerbe. Everything is packed and loaded on the bus and in Buck and Linda's car. "Everyone on the bus..do we really want to leave?"

Everyone got home okay and seemed to have a good time.."Would we do it again?...Definitely...But next time..,please be sure there is water in the well."

Vivian Bailey



Bascom K. King
1927-1952

Rev. Bascom King and his wife Vellie Cole were married on April 30, 1916. They were charter members of the Asbury Baptist Church of Seagrove, N.C. which was organized on the 8th of October, 1926.

On February 23, 1930 Brother King was publicly set apart to the work of the Gospel Ministry. He was serving as pastor of Maple Springs

Baptist Church when he was asked to assist in the work at River View Baptist which was using the old Bethel Methodist building for services. He and Mrs. King along with 10 other persons later organized what is now Bethel Baptist Church.

Rev. King had a pottery shop at Star, N. C. where he made and sold pottery. Every third Sunday he came to Bethel to preach. Many times he did not get enough money to pay for his gas but he always came. He never let the church down.

Bethel was a country church without much money and times were hard in the early thirties. Under preacher King's leadership the church grew and grew.

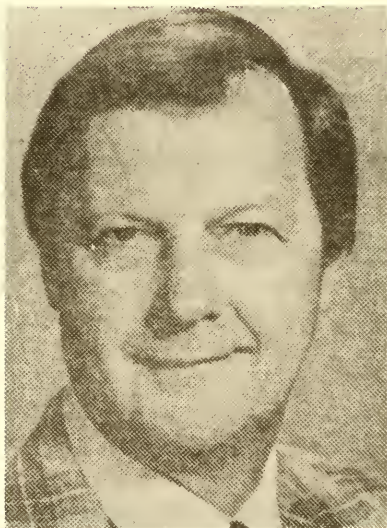
Brother King was a "fisher of men". He was dedicated to God and well liked by all who knew him. He took up time with the children because as he often said, "The children are the church of tomorrow". During big meetings at Bethel, he stayed with the members. These visits among the people helped to strengthen their faith and love.

Preacher King worked among his members and talked about the love of God. This created a strong bond of fellowship within the church. When new members joined, he would always put an old member and a new member to work together in the same office. This way the old member could teach the new member many

things about living a Christian life. If you failed at your job...he was always ready to help you get up and try again.

For over 25 years he faithfully served as shepherd of his flock. When he became ill, he still continued to preach. His final message to the church before he died in 1952 (Brother King was born on July 6, 1895 and died at the age of fifty-seven) was delivered, seated in a straight chair...because he was too weak to stand.

Rev. and Mrs. King had twelve children and adopted one. Mrs. King is presently in the Brian Nursing Center in Asheboro..loved and cared for..by her family.



Maurice Cooper
1952-1953

Maurice K. Cooper was a student at Wingate College when he was called to pastor Bethel in 1952. He had previously served the Deep Creek Church at Pinehurst, N.C.

He was ordained at his home church of Union Grove at Seagrove, N.C. in 1952. After leaving Bethel he continued his education at A.S.U. in Boone and graduated from Southeastern Seminary in 1958.

His pastorates include: Willow Dale Baptist, Vilas, N.C.; Poplar Grove, Boone; Asst. pastor at First Baptist, Boone; Woodlawn Baptist at Wake Forest, N.C. and Perkinsville Baptist at Boone. Since 1967 he has been associated with the State Convention of N. C. and currently serves as Director of the Dept. of Church Training.



Rev. William T. Currie
1953-1959

It was a pleasure and honored privilege to serve the Bethel Baptist Church from 1952 until 1958.

There was only about forty active members. The Sunday I preached a trial message the offering was only around fourteen dollars. there were no Sunday School rooms. A big pot-bellied stove stood in a sand box in the center of the church. The pews

were hand made with one board for the seat and one for the back. You could watch the sun rays as they showed through the cracks in the weatherboards. There were hundreds of wasps that had took up residence and they kept everyone very alert.

There was no electricity. We used a gasoline generator located in a block house about 75 yards from the church. Many times at night services the gas would run out or the lights would go out while we were singing "Send the Light", in the dark.

The first thing our Father helped us do was get REA to run power lines about ten miles and we got electric lights. We replaced the old stove and sand box with two 40,000 BTU gas heaters.

We had our first revival on the third Sunday in August. Brother Clifton Tuttle, pastor of my home church, Roberdel Baptist, as guest speaker. We had Homecoming Day with dinner on the grounds.

During the day I met Grady Smith among the visitors. He brought dinner of pork sliced barbecue. He was not a Christian and said he came to Bethel as a small boy with his mother and father. We became friends that day and he returned for revival services. He has been under conviction about his salvation since his brother, Tom, was buried. He was gloriously saved the third night of the revival and became a faithful

member and supporter of the church. On Sunday morning after he was saved he put \$500.00 in the morning offering. That morning we received about \$750.00, the largest offering ever at Bethel. The Lord blessed the church and our efforts. I was only a young bivocational pastor.

Then Bethel Church sent Brother Manly Reynolds, Rev. Dewey Shepherd and Brother David Hudson to my home and ask me to come and preach a trial message. I had been saved about one and one-half years when I received the call to Bethel.

I couldn't understand why the Lord wanted me. I was uneducated, only a high school education and I didn't have a suit to my name. I preached my first sermon in a brand new suit that the Prayer Band whom we had been praying with every Saturday night gave me. Brother D. J. Long led me to Christ, I was saved January, 1951. My wife and I were both baptized together. We were very grateful and thankful for God's blessings at Bethel.

On the third Sunday of August, 1953 we had a revival at Bethel which I will never forget. It was the greatest I have been in to this day. We had been praying for about two weeks each evening in different homes. One night as we were in prayer the Lord spoke to my heart in a still small voice and said, "I will will send you a revival at Bethel, but you must stand up now and tell the people here at prayer service that there will be fifty people saved next week." I asked Him "What if there were only twenty-five?" Then He asked me if I thought He was able to save. "Well, if you believe it then tell them I will do so." With a trembling heart I told the people and there was doubt, but I had hope that this was going to happen. The word spread quickly that God has spoken with the preacher.

The revival began on Sunday morning at the 11:00 a.m. service. I had invited Rev. Benny Manus from Seagrove to be the guest speaker. He could not come until Monday night, so it fell my lot to preach Sunday morning and Sunday night. The church had grown in number to over 150 in Sunday School and the bus was fully loaded every Sunday. I preached that morning and twelve young people were saved. I came back that

night and seven more were saved. I really got excited. I said, "We have 19 saved and the visiting preacher isn't even here yet".

I had ask Brother Bill Moore, Choir director at Roberdel Baptist Church to lead the choir and his son Clark to play the piano. They couldn't come until Monday night. When these two and the preacher arrived on Monday night they were told what I had said about the 50 and about the 19 already saved. Brother Manus preached that night on "A Shoe". His text was from the Song of Solomon, Chapter 7 Verse 1, "How beautiful are the feet with shoes". He used a shoe as a parable and compared it as having a sole (soul) a tongue, eyes, all colors, different varieties, made for service and ought to have a shine.

Brother Benny bore down on the soul that needs salvation and 19 more were saved. Think about it..38 people in two nights. I began to think that we might have a hundred instead of fifty, but the devil doesn't give up easily. He mustered all the forces from hell and came on Saturday night. We just liked two people having fifty. The devil packed in all around the pulpit. It was a cold dead service and the preacher stumbled through his message. When no one came forward he turned the service over to me and I knew what God had told me. I said, "Let's pray." I thanked God for the 48 He had given us. I told Him he had said fifty, and the devil was there in great power. I asked Him to do what He said He would do... We sang one more verse as two young ladies about 14 years old stepped out in the back and came down to the front. Hand-in-hand they said, "Preacher, we want to be saved." I cried and shouted all over the church and God saved two more. I will never praise Him and thank Him enough for what He has done for me and with my tears of joy as I write this. I will never forget Bethel.

I stood in Dr. Bernie Garret's pond and baptized 35 into the membership of Bethel. I also baptized my own dad on Father's Day and God gave us a set of twins, Darlene and Marlene, one son Michel and another girl, Ginny. All of this...while we were at Bethel.

I will always be grateful for my first love, Bethel. May God always bless you and continue to make you a blessing, until the shadows flee away and we see Him.



Howard C. Benoy
1960-1965

Howard C. Benoy was called as pastor of Community Baptist Church, East Rockingham and was ordained by his home church, Pee Dee Baptist on November 6, 1958.

He organized Beverly Hills Baptist Church in the early part of 1959 and held the first services in their church building in November 1959.

He served Community and Beverly Hills until January, 1960 when he resigned Beverly

ly Hills to become pastor of Bethel Baptist Church. He served Bethel and Community until Bethel began full time services. He then resigned Community and became full-time pastor of Bethel Church. He served Bethel until February, 1965 when he became pastor of Centerview Baptist Church in Albemarle.

In May 1972 Howard became pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Albemarle and remained there for almost 15 years. After leaving Immanuel in January, 1987 he organized Mount Calvary Baptist Mission.

The mission was organized on March 22, 1987 with the approval of the Stanly Baptist Association. It began with 30 charter members holding full-time services and is continuing to grow.

Howard also serves as Chaplain for the Disabled American Veterans of Stanly County.

Howard attended Wingate College, Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, and received his bachelor of Theology from New World Bible Institute. He also holds a certificate for Hospital Chaplaincy from Stanly Technical Institute.

Howard and Helen have two sons Howard A (Tony) and Jack; two daughters Mrs. Patty B. White and Mrs. June B. Kirkpatrick, along with eight grandchildren. All the family live in Albemarle except June, who lives in Burlington, N.C.



Glenn Snider
1965-1975

Glen Snider was ordained by the Pine Grove Baptist Church of Moore County and assumed the pastorate of the Pine Grove Church where he remained until 1962.

At this time he was called to the New Home Baptist Church of Vass, N.C. serving as pastor until 1965. From the period of 1963-1965, he carried the added responsi-

bility of the Highland Baptist Church of Vass, also.

In 1965 he became the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church where he served for a period of ten years. The church assisted him in furthering his education and he graduated from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in 1966.

By 1976, Glenn had moved to the Community Baptist Church of Lexington, N.C. and remained there until September, 1982. At this time he retired due to bad health.

Glenn married Ella Mae Myrick in 1932 and were blessed with two children: Mrs. Jerry Helms, Nancy Lee who lives in Harroldsberg, N. C., Larry is married to Glenda Coffey and lives in Southern Pines, N.C.

Brother Glenn and Ella Mae have 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. The Sniders currently live in Candor, N. C.



Earl & Patricia Jones
1975 - 1979

Earl Jones was born and reared in the Asheville area of North Carolina. He was saved at the age of 12 in the Brent Creek Baptist Church of Asheville. For about four years he was active in church youth groups and then like so many young people became unfaithful to God and the church.

For several years he wandered from the church. During this time Earl met and married Patricia Hauck. In the early part of 1968 he rededicated his life to Christ. A few weeks later his wife accepted Christ and they were baptized together.

In October 1968 Earl accepted the call to preach the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. For about five years he preached whenever the opportunity allowed. In February, 1974 he was called to pastor a small country church about 25 miles outside Asheville. His home church, Woodfin Baptist, was asked to ordain him and did so on April 28, 1974. He served as pastor of the church and also worked second shift while attending Fruitland Bible Institute.

Earl became pastor of Bethel in October 1975 and remained there until June, 1979. He was active in community activities including little league baseball and the rescue squad.

Since leaving Bethel he has pastored churches in West Virginia and North Carolina.

"We give God the glory for the many good times that we experienced while at Bethel. The many friends that we made while there hold a warm spot in our hearts. I think that the Lord should be praised for the many wonderful works that he did during our stay at Bethel. If any good was accomplished, it was God and not I that did it...for we can do nothing without His help."



Howard Walters
1980 - 1983

Howard Walters was born in Hartsville, South Carolina on July 18, 1944. His childhood was spent in Patrick, South Carolina. He attended and graduated from the Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in 1978.

He is married to Brenda Broach of Hartsville and they have six children.

His pastorates include Bruton's Fork Baptist Church

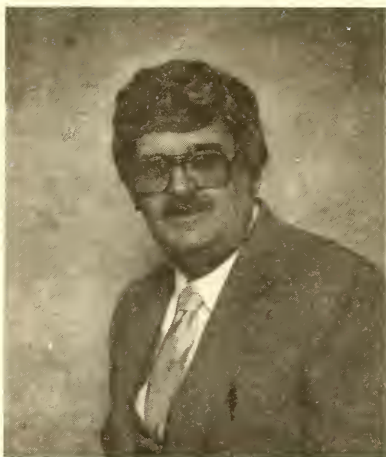
of Bennettsville, South Carolina and Bethel Baptist Church. He served as pastor of Bethel from 1980 til 1983.

Howard is presently living in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina where he manages a motel.

I was born in Lafayette, Alabama in 1930 but moved to Salisbury, N. C. at the age of nine. While attending a revival with a neighbor, Mrs. Charles Brady, I was led to accept Christ at the age of 13. My sister and I joined the Presbyterian Church along with my parents. For several years I thought about becoming a pastor but the call was not really strong until some time later. Meanwhile, I was active in scouting, youth choir, and fellowship groups.

My father went to Washington, D.C. to work and I joined him while the rest of the family remained in Salisbury. After about six months I returned to Salisbury and Boyden High School. My senior year I met Vivian Limerick, became engaged and we were married after graduation in 1948.

While courting I began to attend Stallings Memorial Baptist Church. Here we were married and became involved



Clinton Bailey
1984-

in many youth activities along with choir, scouting, teaching Sunday School and VBS. By 1951 we had become parents of two daughters: Tisa & Linda, as well as being very much involved in the life of Stallings Memorial. At this time the call to preach began to be felt again. I tried to talk with the pastor on several occasions, but was

unable to express the real cause of my anxiety.

Every excuse I made to the Lord just seemed to fade away under His will. I developed a heavy cough due to working under refrigeration. The doctor told me I had to change jobs and my father-in-law, Charles Limerick, offered me work in his machine shop. This was the final obstacle...I now would be able to work and go to college as well. I surrendered to the call on April 1, 1951, was licensed, served as Youth Week Pastor, and entered Catawbe College that summer. The stress of work, study and family responsibility created havoc in my life since I had not truly learned that God will supply all our needs. Finally after losing a year because of bad health I graduated in 1956.

We were now ready for seminary but the way was not yet prepared to provide for a family of four children. (Kathy and Charles being born during my college period). In the summer of 1957 (a year after graduation) I gave up my job at the machine shop and went to Louisville, Kentucky confident that God would open the doors for me to enter Southern Seminary. It took almost 2 weeks but everything worked out. I went to work at the P. Lorillard Tobacco Company as stock clerk, my family moved into Seminary Village and we began our final preparation for answering God's call.

The first year I went on a weekly preaching mission in a local manufacturing plant. Those who listened, encouraged this young preacher and those who remained in their work areas during lunch hour only caused me to preach stronger and louder that they too might receive the good news of salvation. The second year Vivian and I served on a Mission Deputation Team. We visited several churches in Kentucky and Indiana; singing, preaching, leading discussions and directing fellowship meetings. During this time we both began to feel a definite call to serve as missionaries in Africa. Two of our neighbors, Hugh and Rebecca McKinley who left for Africa only heightened our desire to go.

We were both now enrolled in Seminary, thinking we knew exactly what lay ahead. God had other plans however. We were turned down by the Foreign Mission Board because of previous surgery on Vivian's back. Though we were disappointed our sorrow turned to joy when we were called to pastor Immanuel Baptist Chapel, a mission of Bullet Lick Baptist Church.

Our lives were greatly changed, we were preparing and at the same time receiving "on the job training". The mission grew and we began what has been our lifetime ministry...building churches. The first one was only a small renovation and some additional Sunday School rooms..but what a thrill it was to see people working together and realizing a dream. The mission was soon organized into a church and we later moved into our first permanent parsonage on the church field. a four room house with an outdoor toilet and "You fetch it water".

We remained at Immanuel until after graduation in 1961. We then received a call to the First Baptist Church, Highlands, N.C. Highlands was a beautiful tourist town and we grew to love the mountains and the peculiar people who lived in those parts. After about 18 months we received a call to Pleasant Home Baptist Church in Miller's Creek, N. C. Again God sought to strengthen his man. The work was difficult but the rewards were overwhelming. I was the first pastor to live in the parsonage. It was a new experience, but the church and I along with the Lord moved forward together. Membership grew..as the result

of one revival, twenty-nine people were baptized into the church fellowship. We remodeled the sanctuary and made plans for additional Sunday School space. In August 1967 we moved across the line to Stone Mountain Association and the Maple Grove Baptist Church. How God can bless when the people are open to His will. Here I learned the true blessing of prayer and discovered the warm fellowship of those who truly love with all their heart as well as their minds. Again we grew and had to build. This time anticipating the growth that truly came a few years later as empty fields gave way to subdivisions and a county water system.

In 1970, we almost moved back home as we went to the First Baptist Church of East Spencer. Here God allowed us to remain for over seven years..becoming a part of the community..sharing their joys and sorrows and proclaiming the way of the Lord. The church faced new challenges and responded by reaching our people and creating a more beautiful atmosphere in which to worship. Here also we faced the problems of a changing community due to the closing of Spencer Railroad shops and the loss of many members. We also faced the problems of an integrated society as the whites moved out and the blacks moved in. The true spirit of Christ prevailed as both worked together for a common cause.

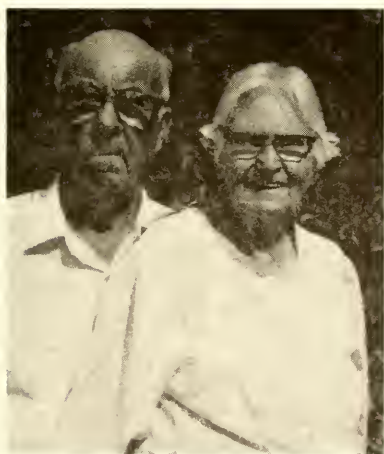
1977 found us in the sandhills at Cartledge Creek Baptist Church. For about two years we learned the value of traditions, became more aware that history is molded by people under the leadership of God; learned to love and be loved as Christ taught all His disciples by His own example; saw others carry heavy burdens and discovered for myself that strength that lies with within us all..."a well-spring of living grace."

October 1979 found us packing again to return to Wilkes County and the Mountain View Baptist Church of Hays. Soon two of the children also decided to move into the area and we seemed like a real family again especially since we now had eleven grandchildren to share our lives. After aiding the church to achieve a ten year dream of building a new sanctuary, we were able to turn to our own dreams of building a retirement home for ourselves. Five years passed

quickly..My dream partially realized and God's work being finished..once again the call came to "come over and help us".

These past three years at Bethel have taught me never to say, "Never Again", for in so doing we miss the greater blessings and the joy of His service. The Spirit of God is truly alive in the people of Bethel. God is once again opening the door of opportunity. My heart is warmed and thrilled as I see cords that were broken, revibrating once more; to see the fires of true revival aflame upon the hill in the midst of the garden of God...May it always be so!

CHARTER MEMBERS OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH 1927



Walter & Bertha Reynolds



David & Lydia Hudson

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>S. S. SUPT.</u>	<u>CLERK</u>
1938	Bascome King	W. D. Hudson	W. D. Hudson
1939	" "	"	"
1940	" "	"	"
1941	" "	"	"
1942	" "	"	"
1943	" "	"	"
1944	" "	"	"
1945	" "	Raymond Jenkins	"
1946	" "	Randolph Robbins	"
1947	" "	Dewey Shepherd	"
1948	" "	" "	"
1949	" "	Hobert Hudson	"
1950	" "	" "	"
1951	" "	J. E. Nelson	"
1952	Maurice Cooper	" "	"
1953	William Currie	J. M. Reynolds	"
1954	" "	" "	Wyman Thomas
1955	" "	Wyman Thomas	"
1956	" "	" "	"
1957	" "	Norman Williams	"
1958	" "	Wilbur Richardson	"
1959	" "	" "	"
1960	Howard Benoy	Norman Williams	Aliene Williams
1961	" "	" "	Audrey Richardson
1962	" "	Alvin Arrington	Ruby Hudson
1963	" "	" "	Brenda Currie
1964	" "	" "	" "
1965	Glenn Snider	Wayne Richardson	Wilma Rollins
1966	" "	" "	" "
1967	" "	" "	Glenda Carroll
1968	" "	" "	" "
1969	" "	Carl Hudson	Glenda Stutts
1970	" "	" "	" "
1971	" "	" "	" "
1972	" "	" "	" "
1973	" "	Wendell Smith	" "
1974	" "	" "	Linda King
1975	Earl Jones	" "	" "
1976	" "	" "	" "
1977	" "	" "	" "
1978	" "	" "	" "

TREASURERPIANISTCHOIR DIRECTOR

Auman Reynolds

Dewey Shepherd

J. M. Reynolds

" "

Delphenia Shepherd

W. D. Hudson

" "

Harry Range

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W. D. Hudson

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Ruby Reynolds

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Beulah Chappel

Mrs. Grady Smith

Mrs. Hobert Hudson

Bertha Parker

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Walter Hudson

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Dewey Shepherd

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Libby Reynolds

Terry Taylor

Mary Lou Nunn

Helen Benoy

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Jennie Clark

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Denise Maske

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Carl Hudson

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Edwin Hudson

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Norman Williams

Wyman Thomas

Edwin Hudson

James Shepherd

Edwin Hudson

Robert King

Carl Hudson

Francis Hale

Mrs. Francis Hale

Johnny Currie

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Mitchell Bennett

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Carl Hudson

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Wayne Richardson

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Wilbur Richardson

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Talmadge Gerald

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<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>S. S. SUPT.</u>	<u>CLERK</u>
1979	None	Talmadge Gerald	Linda King
1980	Howard Walters	Audrey Richardson	" "
1981	" "	" "	" "
1982	" "	" "	" "
1983	" "	" "	" "
1984	Clinton Bailey	" "	" "
1985	" "	" "	Glenda Stutts
1986	" "	" "	" "
1987	" "	" "	" "

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PIANIST</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>	<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>
1979	Jennie Stoner	Walter Hudson	Ray Carroll
1980	" "	" "	" "
1981	" "	" "	" "
1982	" "	" "	" "
1983	" "	" "	" "
1984	" "	" "	" "
1985	" "	Buck King	Vivian Bailey
1986	" "	" "	Glenda Stutts
1987	" "	" "	" "



MRS VELMA KING



DEACONS: ODELL SHEPHARD
HAL STUTTS
BUCK KING

STATISTICAL TABLES OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Although the records of the Pee Dee Association indicate that Bethel Baptist Church was a part of the Association in 1920, these are really those of another Bethel Baptist Church. According to the 1937 Annual of the Pee Dee Association this church was constituted in 1916 and was also located in the county of Richmond. The last pastor was Rev.C. E. Ruffin. The church disbanded in November 1936, with the membership going to Ellerbe Baptist Church and some to Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Montgomery Association.

Bethel Baptist Church of Ellerbe, North Carolina was not organized until 1927 and did not become a part of the Pee Dee Association until 1935 at which time a group of messengers were elected to carry the request for membership to the Annual Meeting.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BAPTISMS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>ADD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>S. S.</u> <u>ENROLL</u>	<u>WMU</u>	<u>VBS</u>	<u>TU</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>PASTORS</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
1938	6	6	48	39				79.92		42.99
1939	4	6	54	39				121.40		64.14
1940	11	12	66	50				120.83		51.16
1941	5	6	68	37				158.39		73.44
1942	5	5	73	43				204.48		120.00
1943	9	11	83	43				405.25		135.65
1944	1	3	86	61				400.74		252.40
1945	1	2	88	51				708.54		165.00
1946	2	2	90	50				714.20		405.58
1947	9	11	56	53				801.03		600.00
1948	6	12	68	79				1028.00		600.00

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BAPTISMS</u>	<u>TOTAL ADD</u>	<u>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>S. S. ENROLL</u>	<u>WMU</u>	<u>VBS</u>	<u>TU</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>PASTORS SALARY</u>
1949	0	2	68	81				823.28	677.90
1950	8	9	86	95	56			1564.18	588.16
1951	6	7	93	129	48			1711.26	544.40
1952			90	129	58			2000.25	1140.00
1953	10	12	102	129	70				
1954	19	31	157	200	73	101	73	5400.00	1250.00
1955	48	56	196	164	61	104	98	4576.32	1250.00
1956	13	16	207	207	78	106	92	6200.00	1250.00
1957	10	12	209	166	20	58	34	3896.00	1200.00
1958	4	7	216	150	40	68	33	2999.00	1432.00
1959	7	7	223	149	40	56		2667.00	1400.00
1960		9	225	141	27	70	35	3804.00	1690.00
1961	19	26	225	186	37	79	51	6053.00	2412.50
1962	14	24	146	140	38	69	60	6572.00	4380.00
1963	7	17	163	156	36	72	63	6536.00	4420.00
1964	5	10	143	110	47		62	5714.00	4270.00
1965	9	23	228	143	34	78	34	5467.00	3736.00
1966	8	14	229	104	41	114	55	6616.00	4420.00
1967	3	4	184	93	34	86	31	5912.00	4420.00
1968	4	7	187	101	22	94	38	7451.00	4510.00
1969	6	30	223	117	25	86	32	8078.00	4940.00
1970	10	11	214	109	25	67	40	10000.00	5715.00
1971	7	14	208	112	23	76	30	11508.00	6160.00

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BAPTISMS</u>	<u>TOTAL ADD</u>	<u>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>S. S. ENROLL</u>	<u>WMU</u>	<u>VBS</u>	<u>TU</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>PASTORS SALARY</u>
1971	7	14	208	112	23	76	30	11508.00	6160.00
1972	9	18	221	95	16	67	22	13605.00	5960.00
1973	0	2	210	91	19	46	20	8022.00	5460.00
1974	0	1		73	15			6919.00	4860.00
1975	3	3	165	61	18	35		6270900	4905.00
1976	0	6	163	69	27	59		9928.00	6050.00
1977	4	6	166	80	25	45		10661.00	6500.00
1978	2	2	160	67	13	49		14162.00	6500.00
1979	3	3	155	79	12	55		13300.00	7399.00
1980	9	14	160	77	15	60		13714.00	7800.00
1981	5	8	160	79	18	54		15879.00	7800.00
1982	2	4	163	51	23	65		15463.00	7800.00
1983	0	1	158	75	24	75		15056.00	7800.00
1984	2	8	151	74	22	74		15755.00	5285.00
1985	6	13	208	84	32	88		20785.00	8760.00
1986	7	9	215	67	26	69		29963.00	9900.00

WEDDINGS HELD AT BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Wilbur Richardson	November 17, 1956
Audrey Pankey	Howard Benoy
Elvin Troxler	June 6, 1958
Betty Nelson	Howard Benoy
Bernie Miller	July 2, 1961
Helen King	Howard Benoy
Glenn Wallace	April 20, 1962
Betty Raines	Howard Benoy
Johnny Currie	May 13, 1962
Brenda Jones	Howard Benoy
Edga Allen Meacham	April 12, 1964
Glenda Raines	Howard Benoy
Ronnie Rollins	July 2, 1965
Wilma Clayton	Glenn Snider
Ray Carroll	July 2, 1967
Mabel Paul	Wilbur Richardson
Bill Gerald	June 29, 1968
Doris Hudson	Glenn Snider
Odell Shepherd	August 31, 1968
Mary Whittington	Glenn Snider
Jerry Carroll	September 7, 1968
Kay Paul	Glenn Snider
Hal Stutts	September 28, 1969
Glenda Carroll	Glenn Snider
Wayne Richardson	May 21, 1972
Shirley McDonald	Glenn Snider
Bill Deese	May 18, 1980
Sherry Gerald	Howard Walters
	Talmadge Gerald
Don Morris	May 31, 1980
Denise Maske	Glenn Snider

DEACONS OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ordained</u>
Walter Reynolds	1927
Dewey Shepherd	11/18/33
Auman Reynolds	09/22/45
Alvin Boone	12/15/57
Alvin Arrington	11/13/60
Wayne Richardson	03/07/65
Jerry Carroll	07/30/67
Wendell Smith	09/19/71
Leonard Parker	09/29/74
Grady Smith	09/17/55
Elmer Nelson	
Hal Stutts	10/05/86
David Hudson	1927
Walter Hudson	09/22/45
Edwin Hudson	07/14/56
Dee Hawks	11/13/60
Johnny Currie	02/03/63
Claude Raines	09/ /65
Clifton Stutts	09/19/72
Carl Hudson	07/30/67
Harry Raines	02/04/62
Norman Williams	09/17/55
Odell Shepherd	07/06/80
Everette King	06/ /76

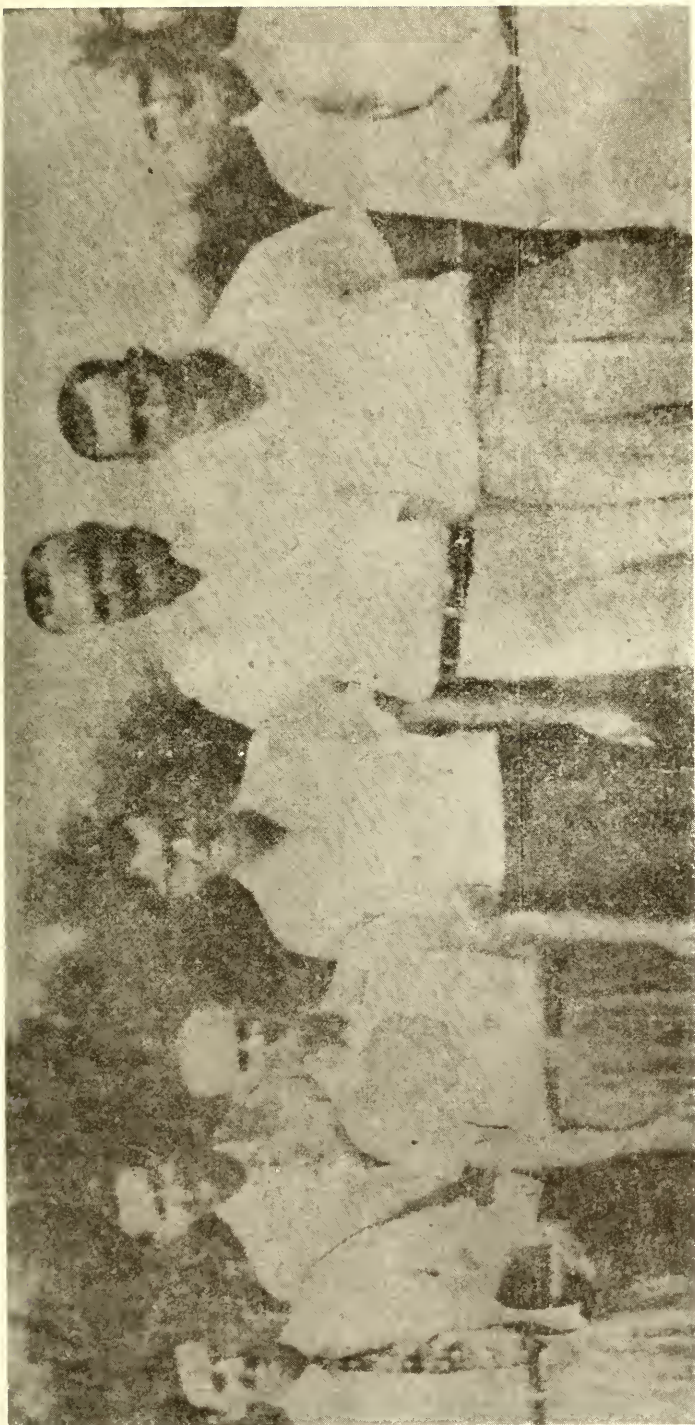
Preachers Sent Out From Bethel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Licensed</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Place</u>
N. H. Mills	06/16/34		
Dewey Shepherd	09/17/52		
Harvey Gerald, Jr.	06/03/62	09/29/63	Bethel
Wilbur Richardson		11/29/64	Bethel
Carl Hudson		08/06/72	Sandy Ridge
Wayne Richardson	01/10/71	12/19/71	Bethel
Samuel T. Butler	01/10/71		Bethel
Talmadge Gerald	06/03/62		
Leon Hawks	10/6/65	03/06/66	Bethel
Edwin Hudson		10/27/57	Bethel
Mitchell Bennett			



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS 1954

LEFT TO RIGHT: Wendell Smith, Mrs. Elmer Nelson, Ruby Reynolds, Peggy Hammonds, Mrs. Melvin Chappel, Mrs. Eddie Baxley, Priscilla Hawks, Mrs. Norman Williams, Daisy Parker, Evelyn King, Margaret Baxley, Bertha Reynolds, Sue Hawks, Mrs. Jeff Parker, Bertha Parker, Mrs. Dewey Shephard, Mrs. Grady Smith, Mrs. Dave King, Mrs. William Currie, Mrs. Elias Pankey.



DEACONS & PASTOR OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH 1954
Rev. Dewey Shephard, Rev. Bill Currie, W. D. Hudson, Elmer Nelson,
Grady Smith, Wendell Smith, and Manley Reynolds



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT & TEACHERS 1954

Manley Reynolds, Wendell Smith, Edwin Hudson, W. W. Hudson, Elmer Nelson, Dewey Shephard,
Norman Williams, Carl Hudson, Elias Pankey, W. D. Hawks, And Hobert Hudson.



INTERMEDIATE UNION 1954

BACK ROW: Joe Baxley, James Shepherd, Audrey Pankey, Delia Hudson
FRONT: W. D. Hawks, Crawford Pankey, Robert King, Marshall Hudson, Evelyn King, Marie Williams, & Mrs. Grady Smith.



ADULT UNION 1954

BACK ROW: Manley Reynolds, Melvin Chappel, Grady Smith, Hobert Hudson, Jeff Parker
 3rd ROW, Edwin Hudson, Elmer Nelson, Wyman Thomas, Carl Hudson
 2nd ROW, Norma Williams, Daisy Parker, Bertha Parker, Miss Reynolds, Peggy Hammonds
 1st ROW, Bertha Reynolds, Mrs. Elmer Nelson, (Archie Hammonds), Mrs. Eddie Baxley, Ruby Reynolds, Mrs. Melvin Chappel.

MOTHER'S DAY 1987



MAY GOD BLESS THESE.....OUR MOTHERS



Largest Family Present
RUBY HUDSON
Oldest Mother Present
" Grandma " Gerald



" MOTHER OF THE YEAR "
Jennie Stoner



Edwin & Mattie Hudson

David Edwin Hudson was ordained to preach by the Bethel Baptist Church on October 27, 1957. Later he was called as pastor of the New hope Baptist Church. He was born Sept. 14, 1929. His parents are the late William David and Lydia Jane (King) Hudson who carried him to church from the time he was two weeks old. He attended Bethel from this time

to 1957 when he became pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church, Ellerbe, N.C. He was ordained as a deacon at Bethel in 1956 and drove the church bus and taught Sunday School there from 1953-1957.

On July 5, 1949 he married the former Mattie Naomi Baxley whose parents (Eddie and Rowena (Daily) were members of the church also. They accepted Christ as Saviour during a revival in August, 1945, conducted by the Rev. Bryant Garner of Randolph County, and were baptised in the Pee Dee River below the church.

Rev. Hudson was pastor of the New Hope Church for nine years, 1957-1966. He became pastor of the Midway Baptist Church in July, 1966 and has been pastor there for twenty-one years.

Rev. & Mrs. Hudson have four children and ten grandchildren:

Garry & Dava (Hudson) Martin of Hamlet, N.C.,

Children: David Byrd, Jason Byrd & Andrew Martin.

Matthew & Patricia (Kirk) Hudson of Aberdeen,

Children: Shannon, April & Aaron

James & Rowena (Hudson) Reese of Rockingham

Children: Eddie & Naomi

Sidney & Homa (Hudson) White of Columbia, S.C.

Children: Marian and Cecilia

Mrs. Hudson is General Supervisor of Teachers with the Richmond County School System. She attended Wingate College in a Trustee's Scholarship and received an A. A.

Degree in 1966. She received a B. S. Degree from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in 1968 and a Master's in Education from the University of N. C., Charlotte, 1980.

Rev. & Mrs. Hudson have resided on Route 3, Rockingham N. C. for 33 years in the Hudsonville Community on land given them by his father.

I had accepted Christ as my Saviour in April of 1956 at Bethel. On November 17, 1956, I married Audrey Pankey. She was a Christian and a member of Bethel. We were married by Rev. Bill Currie who was pastor at that time.

For a while I taught Sunday School and filled other offices such as Sunday School Superintendent and Choir Leader. In 1962, God called me to preach the Gospel... But I, like Jonah, tried to "run" from God! During this time we had a powerful, praying church. Our pastor and friend, Rev. Howard Benoy, and the deacons kept praying for me. They stood by me and kept encouraging me to surrender to God. The whole church was praying for me. God answers prayers... I surrendered to preach and the burden was lifted.

I was licensed to preach on June 2, 1963. On Nov. 29, 1964 I was ordained at Bethel and began serving my first church, Palmair Baptist of West End, N. C.

After serving at Palmair, I became pastor of the Norman Baptist Church of Norman, N.C. After resigning at Norman, I did interim work at Lakeview Church, Albemarle, N.C. I was then called as pastor of Southside Church of Pinehurst, N. C. Following my resignation, I did interim work at Middle Cross Church of West End, N. C. I have supplied and preached at many churches in and around this area.

My wife and I have three children: Jerry Wilbur; married to Annette DeBerry, Phillip Mark; married to Lisa Shankle and Karen Kimberly, a student at Rockingham Junior High. All our children are Christians, for which we are most grateful to God.

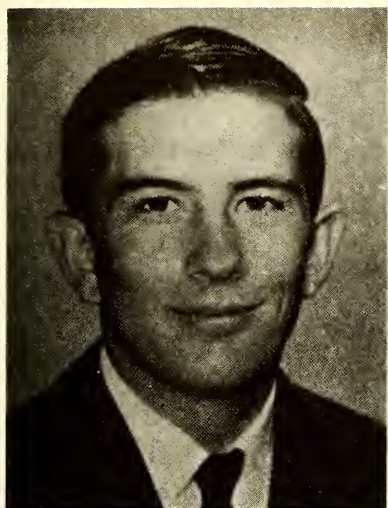


Rev. Wilbur Richardson

Audrey enjoys working with me in the Gospel Ministry. I have their faithful support. At present we are members of Bethel Baptist Church. Pray for us that we will be faithful servants.

I began attending Bethel Baptist at the age of four.

At that time the church was just a one-room building with two doors in the front. The pastor was Preacher King. I especially remember the gasoline generator used to generate electric power. It would run out of gas and the service would have to be stopped until the engine was re-started. I also remember the building of the first Sunday School classrooms and still wear the scar on my right leg from falling on a pile of broken brick during the construction. I also remember building two Sunday School rooms on the opposite side of the building and the controversy that surrounded them, especially when someone came and accused us of building on top of graves. We, of course, had to stop all construction and verify that no graves were there. There was also a laying of a water line from the church across the road through hard clay to a spring at the bottom of the hill. This was a long hard job but we finally had running water which enabled us to install restrooms which we had never had before. There are many other highlights of the construction such as new stained glass windows, new columns on the porch, new cement steps, landscaping the yard, and other things that filled our days with thoughts of serving God. More than the physical things, I remember the high spiritual moments that we as young people enjoyed. There were Saturday night prayer meetings, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Training Union, singing



Rev. Leon Hawks and was licensed to preach by 'Bethel Church on Oct. 6, 1965. At that time I was called as interim pastor of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Hamlet, and later was called as full-time pastor. I was ordained on March 6, 1966 at Bethel Baptist Church with Rev. Glenn Snider as pastor. Rev. Bobby Martin helped to preach the ordination service and the ordination Bible was presented to me by my father, W. D. Hawks.

After graduating from high school in May of 1965, I entered Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in August, 1965, at the encouragement of Rev. Snider and attended until graduation in 1968. At the present time I am serving on the Board of Directors of this institution.

To seek to mention the many people of Bethel who had a lasting influence upon me would be impossible. I would, however, like to mention those who helped to chart my course in life.

Of course, at the top of the list would be my mother and father who insisted upon regular church attendance, prayed for me, and were committed to Christ themselves. Others were my pastors: Rev. Bill Currie who led me to the Lord, Rev. Howard Benoy who helped me see the Lord's will in my life, and Rev. Glenn Snider whose wisdom guided me to my education. Each of these had and will continue to have a lasting influence.

in the choir and youth meetings. All of these instilled a deep sense of religious commitment in me.

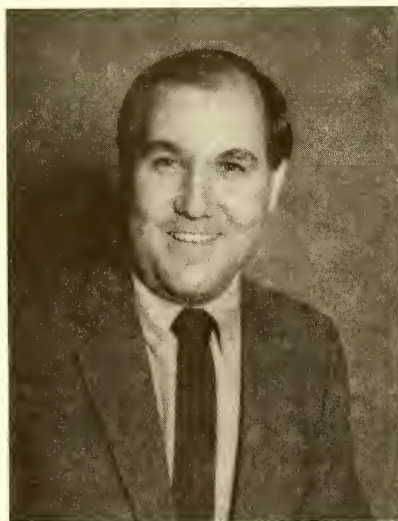
I was saved at the age of twelve in November, 1959, while Rev. Bill Currie was pastor, and was baptized later in the farm pond on Mr. Elmer Nelson. I announced my call to the ministry in the fall of 1964 while Rev. Howard Benoy was pastor

My other pastorates include: LEAK MEMORIAL BPATIST CHURCH, Germantown, N. C.; FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Midland, N. C.; BERRY'S GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Roxboro, N. C.; EAST ERWIN BAPTIST CHURCH, Erwin, N. C.; and my present pastorate at ROBERDEL BAPTIST CHURCH, Rockingham, N.C.

I graduated from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in 1968, received a BS Degree from Campbell University, and attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

I married Gloria Robbins of Marston, N. C. in June of 1967, and we have two children: Kimberly born in 1968 and Christopher, born in 1971.

In closing, I would like to say that God has had His hand upon Bethel Baptist Church since its very beginning. It has remained a strong, viable church in spite of surmounting odds. My prayer is that it will continue to guide young people as well as adults to a deeper committment to the Lord.



Rev. Tommy Butler "Sam"

Christian, for he became my spiritual advisor as he gave me strong Biblical nurishment and spiritual friendship.

On Dec. 14, 1968, I announced my call into the Gospel Ministry. The Lord began to use me to preach

I was born in Bethel Baptist Church on August 17, 1968.

The night was Tuesday the third service in a revival meeting. Rev. Bennie Maness of Robbins, N.C. was the evangelist God used to lead me to Christ. Soon after the revival, I joined Bethel and was baptized in Herbert King's pond by my pastor, Rev. Glenn Snider in Sept., 1968. Rev. Snider was more than a pastor to this young

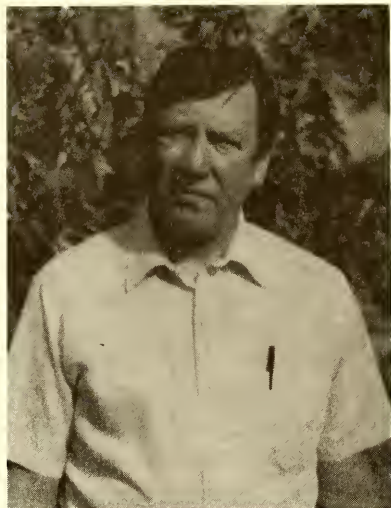
in various churches. Bethel placed me under the watchcare of the church for one year. Then in January of 1970 Bethel licensed me to preach.

God brought Gladys Bowman and me together and we fell in love. She was a faithful member of Bethel serving as organist, and teacher of the Junior Girl's Sunday School class. We were married at Bethel on Sept. 12, 1971. Gladys has been the most important person in my life throughout these many years. She has been the best pastor's wife one could ever pray to work with.

In Nov., 1971, God led us to the New Hope Baptist Church as pastor. We were with them for three years. We answered the call to become pastor of Russell's Grove Baptist Church, Asheboro, N.C. in November 1974. God used us there for five and one-half years. While there He enabled us to see a great many people saved and join the church. We also enlarged the sanctuary and built an educational building. Gladys and I also attended and graduated from UNC-G.

We moved back to New Hope in June 1980. On May 7, 1983, God sent us a lovely son, named Samuel Thomas Butler. He has made our home happier and brighter. We give God the glory for him. During my two pastorates at New Hope we were blessed with some of the sweetest fellowship and made life-long friendships.

In May, 1985, God moved us to East Laurinburg Baptist Church. Our ministry here continues to be a rewarding experience. Our work keeps us busy since we have a large membership of senior citizens. We serve our Lord now with a keen sense of what Bethel contributed to our lives during those early years of our Christian growth. Our prayers for God's rich and manifold blessings are given on behalf of Bethel Baptist Church.



Harvey "Fidge" Gerald, Jr.

My relationship with Bethel Baptist Church goes back to the early fifties. I remember Brother Carl Hudson, Edwin Hudson, Walter Hudson and others who drove the church bus. Brother Bill Currie was pastor at that time. We would often play in some red gullies down in front of the church. One night the preacher stopped the service and came down into the gullies to get us.

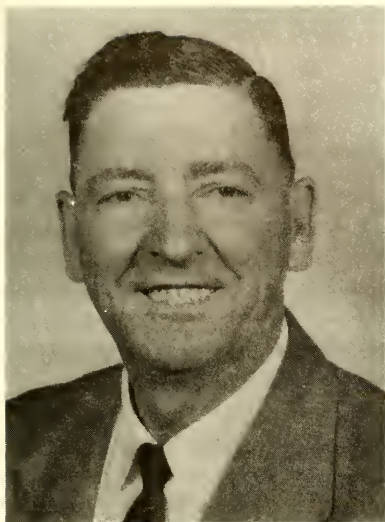
On a Sunday night service in 1955, God spoke to my heart through the preaching of the Gospel and I opened my heart to Jesus and trusted Him as my Lord and Saviour. My mother and others came to the altar to pray with me. I was baptized at the First Baptist Church of Ellerbe by Brother Currie and joined Bethel. I heard the voice of God calling me to preach in 1962 and the church granted me a license to preach. I was ordained and took my first church in 1963. My calling and ordination took place while brother Howard Benoy was pastor. The Lord used him in a great way as He did Brother Currie.

I have been partoring for approximately twenty years and during this time I have been faithful to the Calling of God.

Our first child, James Gregory died after 11 days and is buried in Bethel cemetery.

I feel that I was instrumental in my father getting saved in 1957. I took him to a Saturday night prayer band service where he found the Lord. He later taught the men's Sunday School class. Dad was also used to God in leading his brothers, Jule and John and a number of his nephews to the Lord.

I can never forget the beginning of my spiritual pilgrimage and where it all began...May God continue to bless Bethel Church.



Dewey Shepherd
was born Feb. 25,
1909 near Mt. Creek
in Richmond County.
He grew up on a six-
horse farm which did
not allow him much
time for schooling.
Although he lived
in the Bethel Comm.
he did not attend
church until about
21 yrs. of age.

He was married
to Delphenia Yates
on Dec. 20, 1931.
They had been friends
in school. The Lord

Dewey Shepherd
blessed them with 5 girls and 3 boys. As the family
grew the children were carried to church every Sunday.
In the early years the first children went to church
in a horse and wagon. The weather made no difference..
The family was always present at church. This instruc-
tion and example later brought the children to salvation

Dewey was saved in August, 1932. For many years
he was a faithful Christian and a worker in Bethel.
During this time he served as pianist, Sunday School
teacher, deacon and sang in the choir. Later the
Lord saw fit to call him to the gospel ministry.
He was licensed at Bethel on July 19, 1952 under the
leadership of Rev. B.K. King and Rev. Maurice Cooper
and W. D. Hudson, Church Clerk.

He was not able to do much reading. But after
the Lord saved him, he seemed to have a special gift
of music. God also helped to enable him to conduct
prayer meetings. In 1947 these prayer meetings led
to the starting of Sandy Ridge Church. The building
was erected and paid for by donations of money, mat-
erial and labor. The church was not organized until
Mar. 24, 1963 following the completion of the building.

The congregation then called Dewey as pastor.
For eight years he served the church until bad health
caused him to give it up. The congregation then called

Rev. Henry Jenkins to take his place. Dewey remained a member of Sandy Ridge Church until his death on August 23, 1984.



Carl Hudson

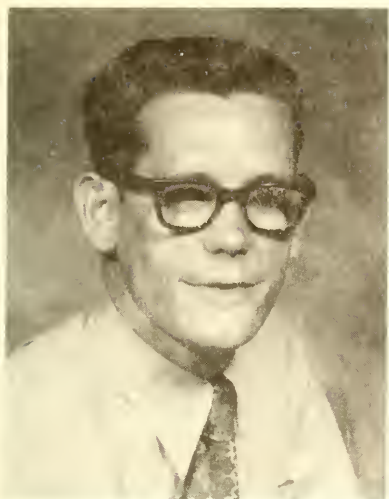
James Carl Hudson, Sr. came into the land of the living on August 24, 1927 the year and the month that Bethel Baptist Church was started. Three weeks later he started to church. "I remember when lamps were used for lights. Then as the years passed a Delco generator plant gave light. Later light power poles brought electricity."

Carl was saved at the age of 12. "I thank God for that."

He announced his call to the ministry on March 14, 1971 and the church granted his license on March 19, 1972. He was ordained on August 6, 1972 at the Sandy Ridge Church by his brother the Rev. D. Edwin Hudson and Rev. Thurman Howard.

Wayne is the son of David and Esdale (Taylor) Richardson. At the age of 13 he attended a revival at Bethel lead by the Rev. Benny Manus where he was saved. He was baptized along with 34 others in Sept. of 1953 in a pond located on the Wiregrass Road. Rev. Bill Currie was the pastor.

As he grew in grace he began to avail himself to serve Christ through the church. His willingness to serve led to his being elected Choir leader, Janitor



Wayne Richardson

Sunday School teacher as well as S.S. Superintendent and teacher in VBS. At the age of 20 the members of Bethel recognized his dedication and elected him as a Deacon. The ordination service was held on March 7, 1965 with Rev. Howard Benoy officiating. Later in 1970 at the age of 26 he surrendered to the call to preach.

Rev. Glen Snider and the church placed him under the "Watchcare" of the church for a period of one year before granting him a license.

About this time Bethel decided to sponsor a mission in the Derby area. From 1971 to 1973 Wayne served as pastor of the Derby Baptist Mission, having been ordained on March 31, 1974. By 1973 the mission became strong enough to be self-supporting and was formally organized into the Derby Baptist Church. He was called as the first pastor and remained there until 1975 when he moved to Laurel Street Baptist Church, Albermarle, N. C.

In addition he served as pastor of the Norman Baptist church from 1978-1986. He is presently serving the North Lumberton Baptist Church, Lumberton, N.C. , where he became pastor in March 1986.

Wayne was married to Shirley McDonald of Ellerbe, N.C. on May 21, 1972 at Bethel. God blessed them with two sons: Walter David, born July 18, and Samuel Wayne, born Nov. 30, 1984.



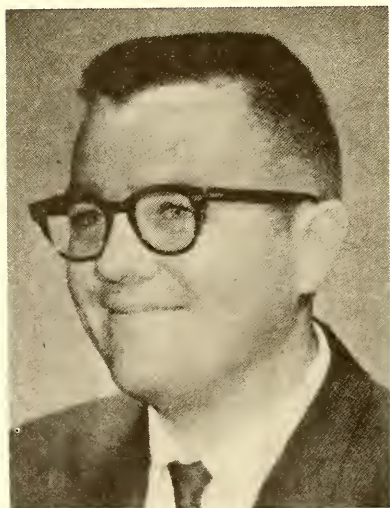
Talmadge Gerald

Talmadge Lee Gerald, son of Julius and Lessie (Ellis) joined Bethel Baptist Church by letter in 1960. He was licensed to preach on June 3, 1962 during the ministry of Rev. Howard Benoy.

He was called as pastor of the Falls Branch Baptist Church at Lilesville, N. C. where an Ordaining Council was formed by Dr. Eugene Hunsinger. Falls Branch Church

held the ordination service on December 14, 1980. Talmadge remained there as pastor until 1986 at which time he and his family returned to worship at Bethel.

His wife is Naomi (Jenkins) whom he married on June 29, 1949. They have four children and five grand children.



Mitchell Bennett

Mitchell Bennett is the son of Gurney and Mildred Bennett. He attended Fruitland Bible Institute in 1966. He is now pastoring in South Carolina.

FORMER MEMBERS
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>		<u>Date Left</u>
ALLEN, Ray		9/24/60	M	4/15/84
ARNETTE, Eller	L			
ARRINGTON, Alvin	L	9/14/60	L	8/28/64
Mrs. Bertha				
(Chappell)	L	6/5/58	L	8/28/64
BAXLEY, Eddie				
Mrs. Rowena (Dailey			D	5/24/70
Joe				
Buck				
BEAN, D. M.				
Willard F. (Mrs.			D	/ /54
Minnie (Mrs.				1/23/56
BENOY, Rev. Howard	L	1/6/60	L	3/1/65
Mrs. Helen	L	1/6/60	L	3/1/65
Tony	L	1/6/60	L	7/1/65
June	L	1/6/60	L	3/1/65
BENNETT, G. Mitchell	L	11/19/64	L	11/21/68
Mrs. Mildred	B	11/19/64	L	11/21/68
Gurney	B	11/19/64	L	11/21/68
Yolonda				
BEST, Mrs. George				
(Shepard)	B	3/7/65		
BLEDSON, Lizzie				
(Pinion)			D	
BOONE, Alvin	L	7/9/56	L	5/15/60
Mrs.		7/9/56		5/15/60
Pamela		7/9/56		5/15/60

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>		<u>Date Left</u>
BOWIN, Mrs. Fletcher Willie				
BOWMAN, James Parker		10/5/54	L	5/14/56
	L	1/13/72	L	6/25/79
Mrs. Maie (Reynolds)			L	2/12/56
	L	8/3/69	L	11/12/79
Gladys	L	8/3/69	L	11/12/79
BRISTOW, William	B	12/30/62		
Mary Lena (Richardson)	B	12/30/62		
BROOKS, Wayne				
BULLARD, Mrs. Elaine	L	1/31/61		
BURR, Barbara Christine	L	1/17/62	L	12/12/63
BUTLER, Rev. Tommy			L	1/5/72
Mrs. Gladys (Bowman)			L	1/5/72
Billy Sue		1/12/56		
CAGLE, Nathan Mrs. Cora				
William			D	
Mrs. Minnie				
Mrs. Pearl, Ella			D	
Johnny			D	3/29/62
CARPENTER, Mrs. Paul			L	5/ /52

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Date Left</u>
CARYLE, Catherine	P	11/4/62	
CASH, Jim			
CHAPPELL, Milton			
Mrs. Beulah			L 2/11/55
Mrs. Bill, Deliah (Hudson)			L 6/12/76
Wint			
Louise	L	3/24/68	
CHAVIS, Alvin	B	/61	
CLAYTON, Naomi	L	9/6/65	L 4/2/67
Wilma	L	7/28/65	
COLLINS, Mrs. Sue (Hawks)			L 11/11/70
COVINGTON, Mrs. William, Glays (Hawks)			L 9/24/67
COX, David A.	L	5/17/65	/ /67
Mrs. Gladys		5/17/65	/ /67
Phillip			
Mrs. Beanie, Hazel (Chappel)			L 5/4/74
Teresa	B	6/14/70	5/4/74
Robin			5/4/74
Phyllis	B	8/26/71	5/4/74
Marie		8/26/71	5/4/74
CRAVEN, Mrs. Avis			
Alice (Nelson)			L 5/2/66

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Joined</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Left</u>
CURRIE, Jim			L	11/19/64
Mrs. Geneva				11/19/64
Johnny	L	11/17/60	L	11/24/61
Mrs. Margie				
Rev. William T.	L	/53		/59
Mrs. Margaret				
Darlene				
Marlene				
Jenny				
Jerry				
Dean			L	09/03/72
John C			L	03/30/69
Mrs. Brenda (Jones)	L	1/7/62	L	07/10/68
Mary			L	3/28/65
DAVIS, Mrs. Johnny				
Linda (Shepard)	B	6/25/67	L	01/19/69
William Stanly			L	03/18/63
DAWKINS, HERBERT			L	02/28/71
Mrs. Annette (Richardson)		9/7/64	L	02/28/71
Ann			L	02/28/71
DEATON, Debby			D	
DEBERRY, Julia				
DECKER, Jeff				
ELLIOTT, Henry				

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>		<u>Date Left</u>
FLOYD, Mrs. Stella (Bowman)	L	9/14/57		
Edwin				
FORD, Robert Lee Mrs. Bertha				
FREEZE, Mrs. William (Minnie)			D	/ /36
GERALD, Jules Bazely		10/16/61	D	
Catherine M John Jones		12/30/61		
Gloria M Chalres Lilly		5/18/59		6/18/61
Edward M Linda Jenkins				
Debby				
Herman M Nancy Pankey				
Harvey, Sr.		11/19/64		10/5/69
Mrs. Grace		11/19/64		10/5/69
Decia	B	/61	L	8/28/64
Virginia	B	/61	L	8/28/64
Alice				8/28/64
Joe			L	12/16/64
Patricia	B	/61	L	12/16/64
Rev. Harvey, Jr.	B	12/30/61	L	10/13/63
"Fidge"		3/24/68	L	9/29/69
Argie (Gammons)		12/30/61	L	10/13/63
		3/24/68	L	9/29/69
Mrs. Jack, Shirely (Ford)				
Johnny	P	12/8/63		
Mrs. Edna		12/8/63		
Paul				
Flora				

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>		<u>Date Left</u>
GERALD, Sherman				
Mrs. Barbara (Jenkins)				
Rev. Talmadge	L	8/6/61	L	07/07/66
	L	7/20/69	L	10/26/80
Mrs. Naomi	L	8/6/61	L	07/07/66
	L	7/20/69	L	10/26/80
Lee			L	10/26/80
Connie	B	/61	L	
	L	7/20/69	L	10/26/80
Brenda			L	07/07/66
	L	7/20/69	L	01/27/74
GARDNER, Jerry B			D	/41
Mrs. Gwyndolyn (Shepherd)			L	09/22/68
Bryant				
Raymond		10/25/54		
GIBSON, Mrs. Melvin				Holiness
Elizabeth (Tucker)				
GOINS, George		8/8/65		
Mrs. Catherine Mae		8/8/65		
Mrs. Alma	B	09/12/65		
Marie		09/12/65		
Mrs. Vergil, Myrtle (Goodwin)			L	09/09/57
GOODWIN, Mrs. Clayton			D	/55
GORE, Dan		8/23/81		
Mrs.		8/23/81		
GODWIN, Mrs. Billie Sue (Butler)			L	07/29/70
GREEN, Luther				
Letha				

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>		<u>Date Left</u>
GRIGGS, Mrs. Vivian		L	2/16/77
HALE, Francis Ray			
Toby	9/13/60	L	4/12/65
Mrs. Ida Augusta	9/13/60	L	4/12/65
HAMM, Sam E.			
Mrs. Rena			
HAMMONDS, Mrs. Peggy (Nelson)		L	12/5/61
HARTMAN, Reggie	B	/61	
Mrs. Raleigh			
HAWKS, Sam	B	6/25/67	8/25/75
Mrs. Priscilla			9/15/58
Mrs. Edd, Margaret (Baxley)			
Mrs. Dee, Mae (Reynolds)		D	5/ /86
Rev. Leon	B	4/30/61	L 1/23/66
Ronald			
Michael	L	2/15/80	L 10/31/82
Timothy	L	2/15/80	L /85
HAYWOOD, Mrs. Ethel		L	5/29/61
Mrs. Madolyn (Williams)		L	5/1/66
HERSEY, Fay	B	7/19/66	
HOLMES, Mrs. Marie		L	4/27/58
HONEYCUTT, Rachel (Shepard)			
HOOVER, Frances	L	7/18/42	

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>		<u>Date Left</u>
HOOVER, Mrs. John,				
Flossie (Chappel)			L	05/06/63
Robert			L	09/07/64
Mrs. Coleen			L	09/07/64
Martha	B	5/6/62	L	08/28/64
Nancy	L	5/28/67	L	08/19/67
HORTON, Mrs. Maisie Louise			L	01/08/64
Lillie Jane				01/08/64
Mrs. Robert Earle	L	8/28/69		
Mrs. Anna Sue			L	09/26/71
Janice	B	6/24/62		
Kathy	P	10/28/62		
HUDSON, Allan				
Mrs. Louise				
Charlie A.				
Clyde			L	09/19/71
Mrs. Novella				09/19/71
William David				03/18/63
Mrs. Lydia Jane				
John Ray			L	03/03/64
Theodore				
Mrs. William D, Helen			L	05/16/76
Larry Wayne			L	04/22/71
Marshall			L	04/12/71
Rev. Edwin			L	05/22/60
Mrs. Mattie (Baxley)			L	05/22/60
Hobert			L	03/18/60
Mrs. Verbedale (King)			L	03/28/60
Jennelle			1	03/18/60

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>		<u>Date Left</u>
HUDSON, George				
Mrs. Shirley		7/20/71		
J. C.	B	6/27/65		
Walter DEACON			D	
Ann M	B	6/30/63	L	10/4/72
Robbin				
JEFFREYS, Rev. George			L	9/16/73
Mrs.				9/16/63
JENKINS, Ramen			L	2/16/46
Mrs. Hester				2/16/46
Louis				2/16/46
JONES, Rev. Earl	L	10/30/75	L	6/30/79
Mrs. Pat	L	10/30/75	L	6/30/79
Angela	L	10/30/75	L	6/30/79
Terri	L	10/30/75	L	6/30/79
Mrs. Marjorie	L	8/25/55	L	9/18/60
Jeanne				9/18/60
Rebecca				9/18/60
Mrs. Dorothy	B	9/9/63		
KELLY, Everette			L	9/20/42
Doris				9/20/42
Robert				9/20/42
Mrs. Julia Ann				
Mrs. Pauline			L	7/5/70
KEYS, Mrs. Jesse			L	11/15/51
KIGER, Jesse H.	L	12/20/47	L	3/16/62
Mrs. Susie (Tutter)			L	11/17/51

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>		<u>Date Left</u>
KING, Rev. Bascome				03/18/50
Mrs. Della				03/18/50
David			1	02/26/84
Mrs.				
Mrs. Pauline				
Charlie				
Mrs. Mary (McDonald)		6/10/55	L	05/10/70
Vickie	B	3/7/65		
Louise			L	03/ /43
Judy				
Robert "Bobby"				
LAMBERT, Marcie (Agee)	B	6/14/70	L	Presbyter- ian
LATON, Paul			L	09/18/54
Mrs. Dorothy (Shepherd)				09/18/54
LAYTON, Marie				
LUTHER, Junior				
Laura M. Smith				
McCORMICK, Mrs. Carol	L	1/26/69	L	06/14/70
(Pankey)				
McDONALD, Mrs. Walter,				
Dorothy (Hamm				
Agatha				
McINTYRE, Mrs. Harvey, Rachel			L	04/07/63
(Shepherd)				
MABE, Mrs. Lydia (Hammonds)				
	B	06/24/62	L	06/02/71
Mrs. Bobby, Carolyn (Nelson)				

FORMER MEMBERS CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Date Left</u>
MALLOCK, Louise		L 8/28/55
	L 9/21/69	L 2/11/80
MARONEY, Mrs. Evelyn (King)		
MARSHBURN, Mrs. N.J. Dot		L 5/24/67
MASKE, Mrs. Frank, Minnie B		L 11/18/62
Mrs. Naomi		11/18/62
MAYNOR, Mrs. Jimmy, Edna (Hawks) B	6/14/70	L 9/4/83
MEACHAM, Nora Bell		L 12/26/36
Mrs. Glenda		D 5/3/67
MELTON, Willie		L 11/15/72
Mrs. Lee		11/15/72
W. A.		
MASKE, Denise	B 6/14/70	
MILLER, Mrs. Pat		L 11/18/50
Mrs. Helen (King)		
MILLS, Hassel	L 9/16/34	L 6/10/54
Mrs. Ina	L 9/16/34	6/10/54
Robert		
Frank		
Faye		
Yenelle		
MORSE, James C		D / /49
Mrs. Blanche		
Mrs. Minnie Ann		L 3/11/72

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Date Left</u>
MOSS, Minnie		L	2/28/60
MULLIS, Grady B.		6/7/63	L 11/30/64
Mrs. Betty		6/7/63	11/30/64
NELSON, J. Elmer		D	8/28/64
Mrs. Doris		D	8/28/64
Alvis			8/28/64
Wanye "Joe"		L	9/17/64
Mrs. Marie (Williams)		L	9/17/64
NUNN, Mrs. Bertha (Shepherd)		L	12/10/38
Mrs. Annie Bell (Shepherd)			
Rev. Orin	B	6/25/61	
Mrs. Mary Lou			
OWENS, George		D	12/5/56
PANKEY, Ele'		L	3/4/57
Mrs. Carrie Lee (Park)		3/4/51	L 10/25/70
Betty	B	5/6/62	
Jesse	B	5/6/62	
Crawford		L	10/29/75
Walter			
Mrs. Barbara		L	1/21/68
PARKER, Leonard T.	B	6/25/57	L 2/26/79
Mrs. Edna		7/31/66	2/26/79
Carol Ann		L	9/11/61
Daisy			
Doris			
Jeff			
Mrs. Hilda			
Mrs. Patsy Victoria (Shepherd)		L	4/12/72
R. T.			
PARNELL, Mrs. Dianne (Parker)	9/9/61	L	10/24/76

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>-Date Joined</u>		<u>-Date Left</u>
PAUL, Cletus D.	L	2/10/63	D	2/16/75
Mrs. Frances	L	2/10/63	L	2/16/75
William Edward	L	2/10/63	L	3/2/75
Mrs. Jewel	L		L	3/2/75
PARRIN, Bill			L	10/15/32
Henry				
PARSONS, Barbara			L	8/10/71
Lloyd	B	6/14/70		
PHILLIPS, Mrs. Hazel (Richardson)				
Mrs. Paul, Evonne			L	5/24/66
PINION, Lizzie				
Lena				
Easter				
Virginia			M	5/19/34
PREVETTE, Mrs. Ella (Pankey)	B	/ /61		
PRICE, Vernon			L	4/25/55
Mrs.				4/25/55
Vernon, Jr.		7/25/54	L	2/8/83
RAINES, Claude			D	
Devaughn	B	6/25/61		
Glenda				
Darrell	B	6/25/61		
Donald	L	1/29/62	L	12/1/63
Harry		4/11/48	L	2/11/62
Mrs. Ruby		4/11/48	L	12/30/63
Mrs. Faye (Webb)	B	4/14/63		

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Date Left</u>
REYNOLDS, Auman			
Mrs. Elva (Smith)			
Nancy		6/5/58	
J. Manley			D
Mrs. Ella (Owens)			
Ruby			L 12/31/55
Maggie			L 5/19/34
Linda	B	/61	L 8/28/64
RICHARDSON, Mrs. David C., Esdale			D
Edgar			
Edward			L 3/26/56
Athos	B	6/24/62	
Mrs. Johnsie		6/24/62	
Donnie	B	3/7/65	
Mrs. Jean (Pankey)			
Mrs. Joseph, Jenny C (Elliott)			D /55
Mrs. Homer Lee, Boney			
Mark			L /86
Rev. Wayne			
Legrande			
Mrs. Carol (Pankey)			
Ray	B	8/26/71	
Kay	B	6/14/70	
Jimmy		6/14/70	
Worth			
Mrs. Gayzette (Gammons)		3/5/62	
ROLLINS, Ronnie	B	6/27/65	L 8/21/75
Mrs. Wilma (Clayton)	L	6/27/65	L 8/21/75
SCOTT, Inez			

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>		<u>Date Joined</u>		<u>Date Left</u>
SHELTON, Mrs. Katie				
SIMMERSON, Mrs. John				
Margie (Bristow)		5/17/65	L	11/14/70
SNIDER, Rev. Glenn	L	5/17/65	L	10/13/75
Mrs. Ella Mae	L	5/17/65	L	10/13/75
SHEPHERD, Thebe				
Mrs. Reba (Morse)			D	
Mary L				
Rev. Dewey			D	4/7/63
Mrs. Delphine (Yates)			L	4/7/63
Ada M. Gerald Hegler			L	10/11/54
Lacy L			L	1/24/64
James Dewey			L	3/1/82
Elbert	B	/ /61	L	4/7/63
James Harvey			D	
Mrs. Daisy Belle				
SMITH, Fred				
Harold	B	9/12/65		
Sue M Laney	L	9/1/65		
Grace M. Fred Gregory		9/22/71	L	8/9/75
Grady A.				8/25/74
Mrs. Frances			L	6/9/63
Daphne				6/9/63
Polly				6/9/63
Charlie		6/25/59	L	12/2/60
Mrs. Clara (Palm)			L	4/3/61
Charles			L	11/24/58
Cecil			D	
Mrs. Lucille			D	

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Date Left</u>
SMITH, Thomas		
Mrs. Bertha		L 7/4/55
Ed		
Mrs. Lena Mae		L 12/10/56
Mrs. Roger		
Mrs. Jim, Rena		
Mrs. Mary Helen		
Wendell W.		
Mrs. Ruby		
Margaret		L 10/14/50
Josephine		
J. D.		
Joyce		
Delores		
Barbara		
Inez		
Clay		
Mickey		D 8/6/66
Mrs. Annie Bell		M 5/19/34
Judy	B	/61
Lemon	B	6/14/70

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Joined</u>		<u>Date</u> <u>Left</u>
STEPHENS, J. Roosevelt	5/9/55	L	9/12/61
Mrs. Ollie		L	7/6/61
STEWART, Mrs. Mazeleen B	6/25/61		
(Richardson)		L	
STORY, Jack			
TAYLOR, Esdale	9/21/55		
THOMAS, Wyman			
Mrs. Helen		L	11/9/60
Mrs. Joe, Betty (Pankey)			
Mrs. Bobby, Dorothy			
(Ussery) Webb		L	1/14/72
THOMPSON, William B.			
Mrs. Anna			
Helen	B 9/17/73		
TILLY, Strawd		L	4/30/55
Mrs. Pearl		L	6/4/54
Lola			
TOMLINSON, Becky	L 11/2/83		
TROXLER, Shelby			
Mrs. Ida (King)			
Edwin			
Mrs. Betty Jean (Nelson)			
USSERY, Mrs. Annabelle			
Mrs. Bud, Mary Elizabeth		L	1/12/65
(Shepherd)			

FORMER MEMBERS (CONT'D)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Joined</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Left</u>
USSERY, Brenda	L		1/12/65	
Bill				
Mrs., Lilly				
VOORHIES, Bob	L		4/12/65	
Mrs. Ada			4/12/65	
WALLACE, D.T.	L	7/17/54		
Mrs. Anna Bell				
Wayne				
Gelnn			2/18/73	
Mrs. Betty (Raines)		2/11/65	L	2/18/73
WALTERS, Rev. Howard	L	2/21/80		
Mrs. Brenda (Broach)	L	2/21/80		
Barbara		2/21/80		
Amy		2/21/80		
Kenneth		2/21/80		
WARNER, Charlie			D	/55
Mrs. Sallie			L	8/27/49
WEBB, Tommy				
Mrs. Shirley	B	7/17/66		
Patty		7/17/66		
Kathy		7/17/66		
WHITTINGTON, Ronald Lee	B	9/22/68	L	1/11/70
WILLIAMS, James R.	L	6/11/64	L	1/23/66
Mrs. Myrtle (Shepard)				
Ethel			L	5/19/34
Lotte				5/19/34
Johnny			L	11/18/56
Mrs. Brenda	L	11/30/64	L	5/1/60
WILSON, Pressley				
Mrs. Emma				
Bertha				

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Clinton Bailey
Vivian Limerick Bailey
P. O. Box 646 652-5851
Ellerbe, N.C. 28338

Jarvis Carroll
Georgia Allred Carroll
Rt. 3, Box 129 895-4886
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Jason Carroll
Teresa Carroll
Rt. 3, Box 129 895-2203
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Ray Carroll
Mabel Paul Carroll
Randy Carroll
Cindy Carroll
Rt. 2, Box 241 652-5091
Ellerbe, N.C. 28338

Gayle Cornelius
Rt. 2, Box I-27
N. Wilkesboro, N.C.

Belinda Stutts Culler
Rt. 3, Box 6
Hamelt, N.C. 28345

Sherry Gerald Deese
Rt. 3, Box 410 997-7147
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Doris Hudson Gerald
Ollie Gerald
Sam Gerald 895-5072
Melissa Gerald
Rt. 3, Box 410 B
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Lessie Ellis Gerald
Ray Gerald
Rt. 3, Box 410 895-9543
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Tim Gerald
Jo Ann Gerald
Rt. 3, Box 409 997-7148
Rockingham, N.C.

Dee Hawks
Ruby Day Hawks
Rt. 3, Box 177 895-4738
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Carl Hudson
Ruby Shepherd Hudson
Rt. 3, Box 140 895-3888
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

J. C. Hudson
315 Terry Street
Hamlet, N.C. 28345

William Hudson
Barbara James Hudson
Rt. 3, Box 140
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Everette King "Buck"
Linda Saunders King

Gary King
Rt. 3. Box 16B
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Lois Kiger King
Rt. 3, Box 431 895-9326
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Lisa Hudson Lyles
Rt. 4, Box 175 997-3315
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Elihu Maske
Lois Chappel Maske
Rt. 3, Box 203 895-6729
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

William Maske "Nicki"
Elsie Hogan Maske
Rt. 2, Box 51 652-5920
Ellerbe, N.C. 28338

Kenneth Maske
USS Fletcher DD992
F.P.O. San Francisco, Cal
96665-1230

Patsy McDonald Messer
Roger Messer
Jeffrey Messer
Rt. 3, Box 431A
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Joey Herberg
Rt. 2, Box 185A
Ellerbe, N.C. 28338

Randy Nelson
Lynn Hudson Nelson
Rt. 3, Box 138A 997-4921
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Marie Williams Nelson
Rt. 3, Box 138 997-4096
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Barbara Pankey
Rt. 3, Box 133 997-2092
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Albert Purvis
P. O. Box 1494 997-2812
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Allie Raines
Rt. 2, Box 244 652-5174
Ellerbe, N.C. 28338

Wilbur Richardson
Audrey Pankey Richardson
200 Ellerbe Rd. 997-2302
Rockingham, N.C. 28379
Karen Richardson

Odell Shepherd
Mary Whittington Shepherd
Kim Shepherd
Dale Shepherd
Rt. 3, Box 145 895-6216
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Fred Smith, Sr.
Rt. 1, Box 4D
Carthage, N.C. 28327

Katie Garner Smith
Rt. 1, Box AA 3 652-5992
Ellerbe, N.C. 28338

Jackie Stoner
Jennie Clark Stoner
Paige Stoner
P. O. Box 647 652-6133
Ellerbe, N.C. 28338

Clifton Stutts
Lucille Blake Stutts
Rt. 3, Box 6 582-2760
Hamlet, N.C. 28345

Hal Stutts
Glenda Carroll Stutts
Gwen Stutts
David Stutts
Rt. 3, Box 129 895-9765
Rockingham, N.C. 28379

Steve Stutts
Laura Walters Stutts
Rt. 3, Box 6
Hamlet, N.C. 28345

Tim Stutts
Darla Byrd Stutts
Rt. 3, Box 6
Hamlet, N.C. 28345

Sheila Washburn
Shawn Washburn 895-5753
1023 Fayetteville Rd.
Rockingham, N.C. 28379



Clint & Vivian Bailey



Jarvis & Georgia Carroll



Carroll
Jason, Marsha, Teresa



Ray & Mabel Carroll
Randy & Cindy



Gayle Cornelius



Ken & Belinda Culler



Sherry Deese
Brandon



Doris Gerald
Ollie, Sam, Melissa & Cindy



Lessie "Grandma" Gerald



Ray Gerald



Talmadge & Naomi Gerald



Tim & Joann Gerald



Dee & Ruby Hawks



Phillip & Ann Hinson



JOSEPH "JOEY" HERBERG



Carl & Ruby Hudson



J. C. & Camilla Hudson
Jannell, Jamie



Opal Hudson



William & Barbara Hudson



Buck & Linda King
Gary



Lois King



Paul & Alene Layton



WAYNE & LISA LYLES
TITUS, KRESSIE, JOSHUA



Elihu & Lois Maske



Kenneth Maske



Patsy Messer
Roger, Tim, Jeffrey



Kenneth & Shirley Mills
Raymond & Ruth Ann



Marie Nelson
Rhonda



Randy & Lynn Nelson
Travis



Barbara Pankey
Kim, Mitchell & Mark



Albert Purvis



Allie Raines



Walter & Bertha Reynolds



Wilbur & Audrey Richardson
Candi



Odell & Mary Shepard
Kim & Dale



Fred, Jr. & Pam Smith



KATE SMITH



Jack & Jennie Stoner
Paige, Kelly, Chris



Clifton & Lucille Stutts



Hal & Glenda Stutts
Gwen & David



Steve & Laura Stutts
Vicki & Jennifer



Tim & Darla Stutts
Hallie



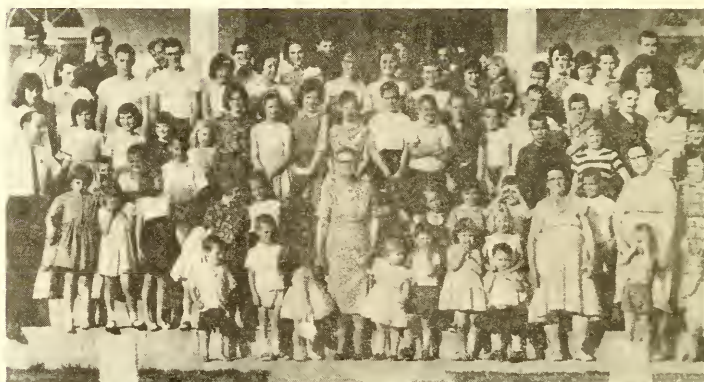
Sheila Washburn



OLD SPRING UNDER THE HILL



EASTER EGG HUNT 1987



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

TALMADGE GERALD, S. S. DIRECTOR & REV. HOWARD BENYO



DEDICATION OF CHURCH 1957

BILL CURRIE PASTOR

IN-ACTIVE MEMBERS - MAY, 1987

Alma Alexander	Wanda Saunders Benson
Eddie Baxley	Pattie Benson
Edward Baxley "Buck"	Joe Baxley
Wayne Brooks	Douglas Benoy
William Buck	Ellen Paul Chalmer
Catherine Carlyle	Hilda Cooper
Earl Chappel	Rader Hawks Cooper
Margie Hudson Cobbler	Donald Currie
Louise Covington	Fletcher Currie
Myrlte Covington	Jerry Carroll
Margie Currie	Kay Paul Carroll
Wendell Davis	Ernest Cox
Ruth Hudson Davis	Julie Deberry
Billy Ray Davis	A. B. Freeman, Jr.
Edwin Floyd	Bill Gerald
Ruth Davis Goodson	Clayton Goodwin
Jack Goodwin	Arthur Green
Maggie Goodwin	Susie Shepherd Green
Nina Mabe Hartman	Riley Hartman
Hicks Hammond	Margaret Baxley Hawks
Hardin Hawks	Marie Herberg
Wilma Wilson Hawks	Louise Chappel Hinson
Fay Hersey	Leroy Hudson
Shirley Hudson	Darrell Johnson
Dianne Richardson Hughes	Kim Johnson
Jeanie Jones	Libby Reynolds Kelly
Rebecca Jones	David Kiger
Bessie Goins Kiger	Cecil King
Mary currie Lawrence	Rebecca "Becky" King
Evon Mills Lefler	Jason King
Junior McDuffie	Lester Myers
Bertha Parker	Walter Pankey
Hilda Parker	Evon Richardson Phillips
Robert Poole	Kathleen Huneycutt Pierce
Loretta Shephard Poole	Dianne Davis Pressley
Coreen Gerald Prevette	Ella Pankey Prevette
Eddie Reynolds	Johson Richardson
Donnie Richardson	Terry Richardson
Worth Richardson	Louise Chappel Robertson
Gayzette Richardson	Buddy Shepherd
Ronnie Rollins	Deloris Shepherd
Daphine Smith Sellers	Mandy Shepherd
Janice Luther Smith	Betty Freeze Sims

IN-ACTIVE MEMBERS - MAY, 1987

Joyce Smith Barnes
Clatis King Thomas
Mrs. H. B. Tucker
Bill Ussery
Holden Vuncannon
Beulah Vuncannon
Randolph Williams
W. D. Wilson
Shirley Smith Wilson

Mickey Smith
Annabelle Reynolds Smith
Pauline Tucker Thompson
Bobbie Lee Davis Vance
T. A. White
Lillian Ussery White
Kay Smith Wilson
Danny Young
Michelle Young



BETHEL CHURCH PARSONAGE



HISTORY OF PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

In early August of 1964, Elmer Nelson, Elvin Troxler, and Alvin Airrington, members of Bethel Baptist church met with Rev. Bill Currie and Herbert King, a member of New Hope Baptist Church. After fervent prayer and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit they decided to start having meetings. The first meeting took place in an old farm house on State Road #1005 near the place where these men met to pray.

On August 23, 1964 the following people met for the purpose of organizing Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Rev. Currie and his wife Margaret, along with Darlene, Marlene, Jennie, Brenda and Terry Currie; Elmer & Doris Nelson; Alvin & Bertha Airrington; Elvin & Betty Troxler; Shelby & Ida Troxler; Linda Reynolds; Martha & Nancy Hoover and Virginia, Patricia and Doisha Gerald. Bill Currie became the pastor and Elmer Nelson and Alvin Airrington became the Deacons. The church continued to meet in the farm house for a while.

On February 28, 1965 a committee consisting of Elmer Nelson and Alvin Airrington was elected to handle matters and start a church building. One acre of land near the farm house was selected and the land

was donated by Alvin Airrington on which to build. With help from sister churches of the Pee Dee Baptist Association and donations of brick, boards and work, along with the prayers of the members, pastors and friends, the beautiful brick structure emerged. The building measuring 90 feet by 40 feet was finished on the outside in the Fall of 1966.

Much was accomplished during the ministry of Rev. Currie which lasted from August, 1964 until July 10, 1966 when he resigned.

The second pastor, Rev. Dan Shore's ministry lasted from September 19, 1966 to September 24, 1967. During this time the church was accepted into the Pee Dee Association on October 10, 1966. Three deacons, Ralph Shepherd, Bill Bowers and Elvin Troxler were added. Work was also done on the Sunday School rooms.

The third pastor to take the pulpit was Rev. Henry Jenkins who served from October 22, 1967 to May 30, 1969. During this time work continued to go on inside the building.

Rev. George Jeffreys filled the pulpit as supply pastor after the resignation of Rev. Jenkins. On October 12, 1969 Rev. Thurman Howard was called as pastor. His pastorate lasted until July 24, 1973. During his ministry, Herbert King and Herbert Dawkins became Deacons. Bob Voorheis was granted a license to preach. Improvements continued on the grounds and inside.

On August 19, 1973 Rev. Charles Boles was called as pastor and served until April 16, 1978. Under his leadership a gas furnace was installed in December, 1974. A trailer was purchased and placed on the church property for Rev. & Mrs. Boles to live in. The church was air conditioned.

On June 6, 1976 one acre of land adjoining the church property was purchased and a parsonage was built that year. Rev. & Mrs. Boles occupied the house until his resignation. In July of the same year one of our members, Mr. Elmer Nelson died. At this time additional land adjoining the church was purchased and a cemetery was started.

Rev. Thurman Howard returned as pastor on October 14, 1979 and is presently serving. Herbert King (Chairman) and Herbert Dawkins are presently serving as Deacons.

Bertha Airington served as church clerk from the date of organization until March 25, 1979 at which time, Sandra King was elected. Sometime in 1982 Sandra Richardson was voted in and is still serving. Alvin Airington is the Director of Sunday School.

Elvin Troxler served as treasurer until 1972. Maxine Meacham and Annette Dawkins served until 1974. Louise Dawkins assumed the treasurer in September 1974 and is still serving with Janice Thomas as her assistant.

The pianist is Beth Covington with Amy Thomas as her assistant. Elbert Shepherd is the choir director.

The church presently has about 110 members. During the years the church has lost 4 members in death and 35 members to other churches. Approximately 35 persons have been baptized into the church with the others joining by letter.



DERBY BAPTIST CHURCH

HISTORY OF DERBY BAPTIST CHURCH

There was no Baptist work in the Derby area and Dee Wilson began to haul people from Derby to Bethel each Sunday. This group grew until there were about 31 people making the trip. Meanwhile, prayer meetings were being held in the home of Alma Goins and Dee Wilson. Among those speaking were: Glen Snider, Wayne Richardson, and Carl Hudson. Wayne finally asked "What are we going to do?"

After consulting with Austin Lovin, Director of the Pee Dee Baptist Association, talking among themselves, and with the pastor and members of Bethel...it was agreed that a mission was needed in the Derby area.

Bethel agreed to sponsor the mission and an agreement was drawn up. The church would oversee the work through a Missions Committee composed of representatives of Bethel and Derby Baptist Mission. Under the guidelines established the mission was to handle it's own finances with approval of the church. Monthly reports were to be made to the church.

Mr. H. R. Currie agreed to let the group have the use of a 5-room house. After rounding up heaters, chairs, a piano and song books, the Mission started with Wayne Richardson as pastor.

The report for February, 1972 show an average attendance in Sunday School of 25 with 25 in morning worship and 23 in evening. Total offering for the month was \$165.22 with \$107.29 in expenses.

Membership records for the month include: Rev. Wayne Richardson; Mr. & Mrs. Dee Wilson; Mrs. Dorothy McDonald; Myrtle & Shirley McDonald; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Barnes and Timmy; Loe Muse; Mr. & Mrs. Earl Arthur and Mickey; Mrs. Minnie Moss; Mrs. Della McKenzie, Mr. Jim Deese; Jimmy Bowers and Nancy Wilson.

As the Mission grew Mr. H. R. Currie donated one-half acre of land. In June, 1972 the Building Committee composed of Albert Barnes, Earl Arthur and Dee Wilson recommended the purchase of a used building for \$650 which included the cost of moving. By July the building fund had grown to \$1300 and Bethel approved a request to raise another \$1700.

In March of 1973 two bathrooms were added and the property landscaped. A bus was purchased for \$700.

By January, 1974 there were 36 in Sunday School and 41 in worship service.

The Mission became Derby Baptist Church in 1973. Wayne Richardson was the first pastor and served until 1975. He was followed by David C. Hall.

Those who have served as Deacons are: Alton Gatewood, W. D. Wilson, Jim Deese, Jim Bowers and C. L. Fulk.

The church later began to have some internal problems and withdrew from the Pee Dee Baptist Association.



SANDY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

For several years the families of David Hudson, Elmer Nelson, and Dewey Shepherd held prayer meetings in the Hudsonville area. During this time the pastor of Bethel Church, Rev. Bascome King suggested that a meeting place be built for the people of Bethel

since the church was so far away and most of the people who attended Bethel either lived in the general area or toward the city of Rockingham.

David Hudson and his second wife Helen Thompson, agreed to donate property and a deed for one acre of land was made to Walter Hudson, Dewey Shepherd and Hobert Hudson as trustees. Donations for the erection of a building were solicited from local businesses and individuals. The building was started in 1947. Dewey Shephard and Murdock Blue laid the block. Elmer Nelson had bought the Claude Pankey farm and planned to build an addition to his home using lumber cut from the farm. Instead of building the addition, he donated the lumber toward the building.

On March 24, 1963 a group of people met for the purpose of organizing Sandy Ridge Baptist Church. Those present included the Rev. Dewey Shepherd and his wife, Delphina Yates, their daughter, Rachel . MacIntyre; Minnie Maske and Lillie Ussery. Elbert and Lacy Shepherd and Clifford Hudson later became a part of the group.

The church called Dewey Shepherd as their pastor. He served the church faithfully for eight years, but eventually had to give it up because of his health.

Henry Jenkins became the pastor in 1971 and served for about a year. Carl Hudson became pastor on June 4, 1972 and served until September, 1986.

In 1975 five classrooms were completed. The church got county water and two bathrooms were installed.

During this time the church began full-time services including Sunday night.

A cemetery was started in November, 1962 following the death of David Hudson, one of the founders of Bethel Baptist church. The cemetery presently contains 16 graves.

Deacons who have served the church are: Elbert Shepherd, Clifford Hudson, Carl Wood, Paul Layton and William Bowers.

In 1986 the church had 60 members and 35 attending Sunday School.

Although Sandy Ridge did not ever become a member of the Pee Dee Baptist Association, it was a missionary baptist church from the very beginning.

In 1986 the church called Rev. K. E. Eckstein as pastor and Sandy Ridge became an Independent Baptist Church.

